

Israeli jets raid south of Beirut

NAAMER (Lebanon) (R) — Israeli aircraft blasted Palestinian positions south of Beirut Wednesday morning three guerrillas and a civilian. Palestinian sources said. They said four Israeli warplanes fired four missiles at targets used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, in hills near Naameh, south of Beirut. One missile slammed into the entrance of a tunnel while two others hit the road leading to it. The fourth hit a house 200 metres away. "A missile hit my house. It has not exploded yet," a terrified civilian told a guerrilla commander named Shabir. The commander ordered his men to evacuate the area. After the 45-minute raid, Israeli planes again flew over the scene, sending men, women and children fleeing from their nearby homes for safety. The pilot and his wife above the village of Naameh are the main stronghold for the PFLP-GC in Lebanon. Tunnels dug in the hills have been targets to several Israeli strikes. Palestinian guerrillas and Lebanese militiamen mounting anti-aircraft guns and shoulder-mounted heat-seeking SAM-7 missiles were on alert fearing another air strike.

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Crown Prince briefs King Gustaf on Mideast situation

AMMAN (Petra) — A general review of the situation in the Middle East region and environmental and population issues resulting from continued Israeli occupation of Arab land were reviewed at a meeting here Wednesday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Sweden's King Carl Gustaf in a meeting attended by Queen Silvia of Sweden.

At the meeting, which was held at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan presented a briefing on the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of Israel's repressive measures and Jewish settlement plans.

Prince Hassan pointed to the continuous drain of Arab resources and the complex situation in the occupied Arab lands as a result of Israel's intransigent position and its rejection of all bids to establish a just and lasting settlement to the Palestine problem.

Prince Hassan also referred to the adverse effects of Israel's occupation on Jordan over the past four decades.

Referring to the economic situation in Jordan Prince Hassan

explained the Jordanian government's economic restructuring programmes, which, he said, are now bearing fruit.

He referred to Jordan's central geographical position in the Middle East and within the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and said Jordan can play a leading role in regional and international cooperation in general and through cooperation with Sweden in particular.

Attending the meeting was Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the official Swedish delegation accompanying the royal couple on their visit to Jordan.

Banquet

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday attended a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker in honour of King Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden Wednesday visit Um Kais (see King Hussein and King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia page 3)



Photo by Yousef Al 'Amar

King holds talks with Andersson

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday met with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson at the Royal Court and discussed with him the major issues on the Arab scene, mainly the Palestinian problem, the Lebanon crisis and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

King Hussein stressed that Israel had to accept that the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) and the Arab side had done all that was possible to establish a comprehensive peace in the region.

He pointed out that the tension in the region would come to an end only through an international peace conference attended by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Andersson praised the King's efforts and continuous role in trying to put an end to the Middle East problem since 1967.

Attending the meeting was Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received Andersson in his office in the presence of Qasem, and Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Mubarak: Arafat supports Israeli-Palestinian dialogue

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, appealing to Israelis over their leaders' heads, said Wednesday that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had accepted his proposal for direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

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tion (PLO) and the Arab side had done all that was possible to establish a comprehensive peace in the region.

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Direct dialogue next step in peace process — Andersson

By Suhaib Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel can survive neither as a democracy nor as a "Jewish state" without making peace with the Palestinian people and the logical step at this point in time was direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Wednesday.

Andersson, who has played a behind-the-scenes role in efforts to advance Middle East peace efforts, said the quest for an Arab Israeli settlement was "in a very crucial stage;" but he would not reveal any detail of his talks with regional leaders, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, with whom he met earlier this week in Cairo, or what exactly did Stockholm plan to contribute to the peace process. "It would be very dangerous to say too much," he said. "This is the time for silent diplomacy."

However, he maintained, "very much is happening... in a positive direction" towards peace. But he emphasised, "I am not a mediator... Sweden has a unique position, we have no interest but making peace, and all parties know this."

According to Andersson, the Middle East peace process took the first step with the dramatic turn, in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strategy

announced in Algiers last year; the second step was the initiation of dialogue between the PLO and the United States. The third step, he said, should be direct Israeli-Palestinian talks as proposed by Mubarak.

"It is high time now — otherwise the situation can be very dangerous and risky — to take the third step, and the sooner the better. Or else, the extreme forces on both sides can gain ground," he said.

The foreign minister said the Palestinian side to the talks should include residents of the occupied territories as well those outside. "The only way to go is to include representatives of Palestinians from both the occupied territories and outside it," he said. Israel has said that it would only negotiate with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

According to Andersson, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of an Egyptian initiative over his proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, "can cause problems" and harm peace efforts.

Andersson said the Swedish position was that there was a need for an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, "because the two parties do not talk to each other."

"There must be some guarantees from the international world..." he added.

Andersson said elections under international supervision in the occupied territories could be a new step in the peace process, but there must be a clear link between the elections and the final status of the territories.

He stressed that the 10-point Egyptian initiative over the election proposal was not a "plan, but rather a clarification (which) can constitute a basis for discussions between Israel and the Palestinians."

"The ball is in the hands of the Israeli cabinet, and its too early to say in what direction they will throw the ball," he said. "I hope in the right direction."

"Many Israeli politicians have made the same analysis," he added. "They are quite aware of their situation. I think there is a positive mood inside the Israeli cabinet, but its up to them right now."

As part of a series of meetings with both sides of the Palestinian problem, Sweden has "promising discussions" with the Labour Party in Israel, Andersson said noting that the party's leader, Shimon Peres, had visited Stockholm in June.

Earlier Wednesday, Andersson met with PLO Executive Members Mohammad Milhem, Abdul Razaq Al Yahya and Bishop Elias Khoury and "two other educational experts" whom the minister did not identify.



An older Palestinian (right) watches as Israeli soldiers check the identity of a Palestinian young man in occupied Jerusalem. A policeman (left) calls on a walkie-talkie to check the man's status as another policeman gestures for the photographer to stop taking pictures.

Big forest fire seen linked to uprising

BEIT OREN (Agencies) — A forest blaze which police said Arab arsonists started raged across a nature park here for the second day Wednesday, causing the worst fire damage in 21 months of the Palestinian uprising.

In Jerusalem's Old City, a Palestinian stabbed and lightly wounded an orthodox Jew. It was the latest in a series of knife attacks on Israelis.

The forest blaze destroyed some 2,000 acres of scrub woodland in the Carmel mountains south of Haifa — more than all previous fires started by activists in the revolt.

"It is an ecological holocaust," Dan Peri, deputy head of the nature reserve authority, told Israel Radio. "It will take at least 30 years to restore what has been destroyed here."

Police said they were holding six Arabs, some from the occupied territories, on suspicion of arson. They said they believed the fire was ignited for nationalist motives.

A previously unknown group calling itself "Direct Revenge" claimed responsibility for the sabotage Tuesday in a telephone call to Israel television's Arabic service.

"There is no vegetation... everything is burned. I think this is a tragic and shocking site..." said Environmental Affairs Minister

Romi Milo, who visited the site Wednesday. "This will take dozens of years to re-cultivate."

Air force helicopters assisted dozens of fire trucks in spraying water on several active blazes, radio stations reported. Firefighters said they hoped to control the blaze late Wednesday if winds died down.

Police evacuated the campus of Haifa University as well as residents in the area. Army radio said the dry winds brought the fire within 100 metres of Haifa's

well-to-do Danya neighbourhood.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, hospitals reported that troops shot and wounded at least 17 Palestinians in widespread clashes during the night, apparently sparked by the death of an Arab shot by plainclothes soldiers in a mosque.

Shops in Gaza closed in a spontaneous protest strike against the killing, which took the death toll in the uprising to 648 Palestinians.

Bomb may have caused air crash in Sahara

PARIS (Agencies) — A French airliner which crashed with 171 people in the Sahara Desert may have been blown apart in mid-air by a bomb, the airline UTA said Wednesday.

The Paris-bound DC-10 disintegrated soon after takeoff on Tuesday from N'djamena, capital of Chad, and the airline said sabotage was the probable cause.

Aviation authorities searching the crash area, a remote, moon-like rocky wasteland, said they believed no one survived.

It was the world's third DC-10 crash within two months.

"The (large) area over which debris has been found gives weight to the theory of an explosion at high altitude, which in all probability leads one to suspect a criminal attack," Michel Fries, chief spokesman for the airline Union des Transports Aériens, told reporters.

"If there had been a very serious and violent problem on

board, unless it was an explosion or the plane suddenly and completely disintegrated, there would be several seconds or minutes, probably tens of minutes, for the crew to lose altitude or reestablish radio contact," he said.

The UTA said the company had received an anonymous call from a man claiming responsibility on behalf of the shadowy group Islamic Jihad. It could not be verified.

UTA said the call came about midnight, but that the airline was not in a position to judge its authenticity and had informed the French Foreign Ministry.

The Islamic Jihad is a group that claims to hold several Western hostages in Lebanon.

A UTA spokeswoman said earlier the plane had given no mayday emergency signal before losing contact.

"The theory of technical failure is very unlikely," she said. "Another theory is that of a

recorder.

Most of the passengers were Africans, but some U.S. oil workers for Exxon Corporation and Italian and Swiss nationals were also believed on board. French government spokesman Louis le Penec said 31 French citizens were on the flight.

Chadian Planning Minister Sotomai Mahamat and Bonnie Pugh, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Chad, were both on the passenger list, as were two Swiss clergymen — Monsignor Gabriel Balet, bishop of Moundou in southern Chad and Monsignor Germaine Achy, superior of the Capuchin Order in Lacerne.

On July 19 this year a United Airlines DC-10 crashed at Sioux City in Iowa, killing 112 people. Eight days later 74 died when a Korean Air DC-10 crashed in fog near the airport at Tripoli, Libya.

The UTA plane, missing for 18 hours, was spotted north of Lake Chad, in the tenere desert by a French military transport plane comuing the airliner's scheduled flight path.

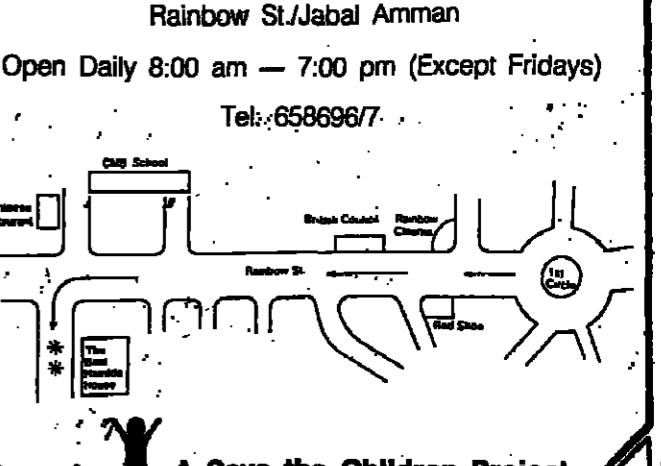
Experts said the zone, a desolate wilderness of sand and rock, would be nearly impossible to get to by land. "It's one of the hardest terrains I've ever experienced," said Georges Lavallet, of the National Geographic Institute.

The DC-10 disappeared shortly after taking off from N'djamena, where it had taken on passengers and crew. The pilot radioed N'djamena airport 20 minutes after takeoff and told the control tower he would radio again 20 minutes later. That was the last word from flight UT 772.

If sabotage is confirmed, it will be the second criminal attack on a UTA plane. One of the airline's DC-8s was the target of a bombing in March 1984 in which one person died.

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2 Middle East News

Beirut fishermen brave barrage to scoop up fish killed by shells

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

JOUNIEH, Lebanon — Most nights, a group of fishermen head out into the Mediterranean from Lebanon's besieged Falangist enclave to scoop up thousands of fish killed by Syrian shellfire.

"They often are caught in the barrages themselves as the Syrians try to drive off cargo ships and tankers trying to run a blockade with supplies for the beleaguered people in the enclave. 'After a heavy round of shelling, the dead fish float like a carpet on the surface,' said Scrop Ornakian, an Armenian fisherman.

"We usually wait a bit and then head for the 'carpet,'" he added. "Most times I collect about 25 kilogrammes (55 pounds) of fish every trip."

The Syrians have been besieging the Falangist enclave north of Beirut for six months. They shell the 45-kilometre stretch of coast the Falangists hold, and the waters off it, every day to enforce the blockade.

Health Ministry ecologist Pierre Malichev said the shelling has killed millions of fish and billions

of eggs, threatening to wipe out one of Lebanon's few natural resources.

"Our sea is dying," he said. "It's become rotten and polluted. Our marine life is nearing its end and we have no fish for next year."

"The sea is teeming with rotten fish which have attracted large carnivorous marine worms called Nereis which feed on them," he said.

Malichev said that fish that are not killed by the hundreds of exploding 130mm Howitzer shells and salvos of rockets are being poisoned by tetryl, one of the explosive elements in the shells that is released into the water.

For most of the 500 Christian fishermen who made a living from the sea before the fighting erupted on March 8, the battles between the Syrians and Falangist forces led by Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun have ruined their livelihood.

"The shelling has killed our season," said Kework Manoukian, a fisherman for more than 40 years. "Usually this time of the year is the best for us, when we make some money. But this year's been catastrophic."

"This is what our life is now," he said as he and his cronies sat around the shady courtyard of his house in Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of Beirut, smoking a bubble-bubble.

His friend, Artin Khishian, doesn't bother going out any more either after his nets were ripped by twisted rocket casings and lumps of shrapnel littering the shallow waters off Byblos a few kilometres north.

"I've had to repair my net three times and that cost more than 200 dollars," he said. "I decided to stop this 'shrapnel fishing' until there's lasting peace."

With fish in short supply in the besieged Falangist enclave, Ornakian and the others reckon that the \$250 they make off each trip is worth the risk.

Muslim fishermen have been banned from the waters off Beirut, where the Syrians have deployed batteries of long-range artillery along the waterfront to shell the Falangist coastline.

But the Muslims are able to fish south of Beirut for 80 kilometres down the coast to the ancient port of Tyre, where the biggest danger they face is an occasional prowling Israeli gunboat.

"Then the next minute a shell hit about 100 metres away from my boat. I ditched my net and made it for the shore in panic as more shells exploded around me."

Ornakian and around 75 other fishermen regularly go out under cover of darkness for catches not much bigger than those they were netting before the fighting erupted.

But the price of fish has doubled to around 5,000 pounds (\$10) a kilogramme in recent months.

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Tehran moves to improve foreign ties

NICOSIA (AP) — A flurry of diplomatic activity in Tehran has appeared to indicate Iran was accelerating efforts to patch up relations with Gulf Arab neighbours and the West, seeking to end a decade-long isolation.

But two radical newspapers sharply criticised statements advocating reconciliation with Saudi Arabia.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Francois Scheer, director-general of the French Foreign Ministry, as saying two days of talks in Tehran were "fruitful and constructive."

Before leaving the Iranian capital, Scheer, the broadcast said, called for regular diplomatic exchanges at short intervals beginning next month.

Franco-Iranian relations have been soured by the issue of a \$1-billion loan made by Iran to France under the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and not repaid to date.

The Tehran Times, an English-language newspaper, said in an editorial that an improvement in relations between Iran and France should not be upset by "temporary political bubbles."

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, quoted the newspaper as saying that "expansion of ties

with Iran must not become a partisan battle or a means for resolving internal power struggles."

It said, without elaborating, that several past attempts at improving relations failed because of power struggles in France. It also urged political factions in Iran not to create problems for officials over issues that have been "carefully studied."

France could become an "indispensable partner" of Iran because of its technical and scientific capabilities, especially in atomic energy, heavy industries and commerce, the newspaper said.

The Tehran Times, which is aligned with the so-called "pragmatist" camp of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said relations between France and Iran should be based on "strategic goals," of the two countries.

The pragmatists in Iran advocate rapprochement with the West as a means of pulling Iran out of its isolation, and accelerating reconstruction.

IRNA, in a separate dispatch, reported that Italy's visiting Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alberto Rossi announced his government's readiness for close cooperation with Iran in various economic and industrial fields.

Also, Tuesday, President

Hasheimi Rafsanjani stressed Iran's willingness to expand its ties with the Arab neighbours, while Rajai Khorassani, head of parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, reiterated that Iran should resume its severed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Khorassani's original call for a resumption of ties was made in a newspaper interview two weeks ago.

The Foreign Relations Committee, which opposes such rapprochement, repudiated his call saying it "did not reflect" its views.

IRNA said Rafsanjani made his comments at a meeting in Tehran Tuesday with the newly appointed Iranian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Mohammad Ali Hadi Najafabadi.

The pragmatists in Iran emphasize Iran's willingness to further expand its relations with Muslim and neighbouring countries. It gave no direct quotes.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that Najafabadi, who enjoys what the agency called an "outstanding" revolutionary background, would work for improvement of ties and promotion of security in the region.

He was quoted as saying that

the appointment of such a personality to the post was indicative of the importance Iran attaches to the southern Gulf littoral states.

Najafabadi holds a degree in theology and a master's degree in international affairs, the agency said.

He has served as a member of Iran's Majlis, or parliament, and was head of the Foreign Relations Committee before Khorassani.

Hussein Sadeqi, director of Gulf affairs at the Foreign Ministry, was appointed ambassador to Kuwait last week, marking an improvement in relations following the Kuwait War during which Kuwaiti coastal facilities were hit by Iranian missiles.

Rafsanjani also has spoken in favour of better relations with Saudi Arabia.

Tehran-Riyadh ties were strained two years ago when more than 400 pilgrims, most of them Iranian, were killed in riots in the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Tehran, accusing it of subversion and terrorism.

The influential Khorassani was quoted as telling the Majlis: "I still believe that we must have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and have reasons to support it."

The Washington Post newspaper



An Afghan rebel sits in a trench leaning on his assault rifle prior to an attack on Jalalabad Airport

Bhutto: Afghan king's return 'premature'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said it would be "premature" to talk of a return of the former King of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah.

She said in an interview that for the present, Pakistan would continue to support the rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG), despite its flaws.

"Some people feel that the AIG has perhaps not lived up to the exaggerated expectations that were held at the time of the Soviet withdrawal and are thinking of alternatives," she said.

"But as far as we in Pakistan are concerned, that is premature and the AIG is the best framework with which to proceed for the time being. To talk of King Zahir Shah at this time would be a bit premature."

Bhutto said fighting between the Mujahideen guerrillas and the Kabul government had increased and she expected this to continue.

The AIG was formed in Rawalpindi last February after the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops. It still operates out of Pakistan.

Many Afghans, both side and outside Afghanistan, support the idea of a neutral, interim government, headed by Zahir Shah, to bridge the gap between President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party and the Mujahideens.

The Washington Post newspaper

er quoted the 74-year-old king, overthrown in 1973 after a 40-year reign, as saying he was prepared to return to lead an interim government to end the 11-year-old civil war.

A U.S. diplomat visited the king in Rome earlier this month, sparking off speculation in Pakistan of a new initiative to bring him back.

Bhutto said the U.S. contact was aimed at winning Zahir Shah's support for the interim government. She made clear that Pakistan, which gives the guerrillas diplomatic support and funnels Western arms to them, still backs their government.

"While we recognise it is not broad-based enough, we do believe it is still the best framework," she said.

It had the flexibility to expand, bringing in Iran-based guerrillas, exiles and Muslims still living in Afghanistan, she said.

"We have urged our friends in the AIG, and continue to do so, that it is essential for them to broaden their base, to include commanders within Afghanistan, to make public their policies, internal and external," she said.

"Also we have told them that the most effective way to demonstrate that one is a government is to work in cohesion," she said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq builds new piers at Gulf port

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, eager to restore its outlets to the Gulf cut during its war with Iran, said Wednesday it had built 13 new piers at the northern Gulf port of Umm Qasr. The Iraqi News Agency quoted transport and communications Minister Muhammad Hamza Al Zubaidi as saying the new piers and plans for 10 more by the end of 1989 at Umm Qasr "will help to improve Iraq's import and export facilities through the Gulf." The new piers bring Iraq's non-oil export capacity at Umm Qasr, which can handle ships up to 13,000 tonnes, to eight million tonnes a year. Iraq's main Gulf port of Basra is cut off from the Gulf by war debris in its outlet to the sea, the Shatt Al Arab Waterway. Baghdad wants priority given to clearing the Shatt in its talks with Tehran aimed at securing a permanent peace in the Gulf where a United Nations-mediated ceasefire ended Gulf war fighting in August 1988.

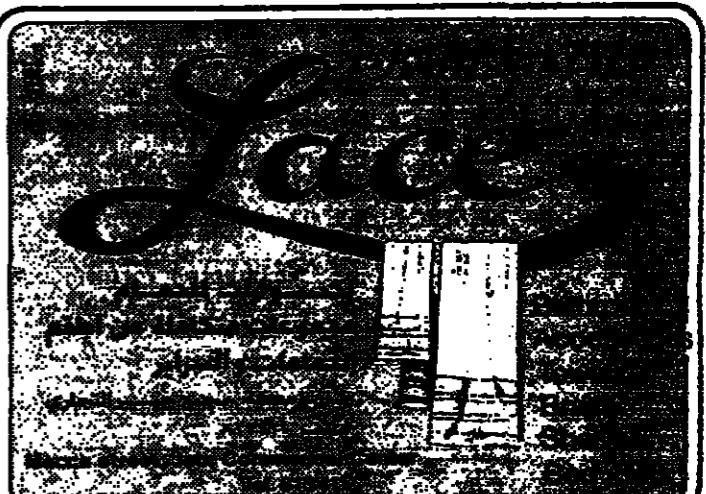
Colombia orders arrest of two Israelis

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's security and intelligence agency has said it had issued warrants for the arrest and extradition of an Israeli army reserve colonel alleged to have trained hit squads for Colombian drug gangs. A communiqué from the Colombian Department of Administrative Security (DAS), said Yair Klein, head of the Hod Hahamit (speared) security company, had been charged with criminal conspiracy and was being sought for extradition. A warrant had also been issued for the arrest of Avi Acke, another Israeli. On the same charges, the agency said. A DAS spokeswoman said Klein's warrant was issued on suspicion that he trained hit squads linked to the gangs, which have been carrying out a series of bombings in response to a government crackdown on drug lords that began last month. Speaking from his Tel Aviv office, Klein said he would go to Colombia to stand trial if formally charged. "I would be happy to go to Colombia if I am charged there. I am sure of my innocence," he said.

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13:00 Children programme

17:00 Hit Squad

17:20 News for the Deaf

17:25 Religious programme

17:30 Headline programme

17:45 Programmes review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:20 News in Hebrew

21:30 Local series

21:45 Programme review

21:50 Local programme

22:00 News in Arabic

22:15 Arab film

22:30 Arab film

22:45 Arab film

22:55 Arab film

23:00 Arab film

23:15 Arab film

23:30 Arab film

23:45 Arab film

23:55 Arab film

24:00 Arab film

24:15 Arab film

24:30 Arab film

24:45 Arab film

24:55 Arab film

25:05 Arab film

25:15 Arab film

25:25 Arab film

25:35 Arab film

25:45 Arab film

25:55 Arab film

26:05 Arab film

26:15 Arab film

26:25 Arab film

Jordan needs genuine reforms—Obeidat

IRBID (J.T.) — Jordan is in need of genuine reforms and a national plan for political development as successful as the socio-economic development plans that had been implemented in the past years, and all this can be attained by the coming parliament which will be elected on Nov. 8, former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Obeidat said in a lecture at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.

The coming parliament, he said, should bear the responsibility of acting as a constitutional authority and play a serious role in rectifying the situation in the Kingdom.

Obeidat stressed the need for the dominance of law on all aspects in Jordan and reaffirmed the citizens' need to respect the law, to pledge allegiance to the throne and to express deep faith in security, peace and stability.

"This country can make no headway towards progress without the prevalence of the law on all citizens who have the right to be fully represented in parliament which should play an active role in serving their interest since Jordanian citizens are partners in responsibility," Obeidat noted.

In return, he said, the government "should work with honesty and integrity and good faith; and should under no circumstances belittle the role of the majority, ignore its interests and disregard its public opinion. Otherwise, everything will end up in oppression and tyranny."

"The criteria of success for a government is the result of its action, its commitment to shoulder responsibility and its ability to plan and implement sound policies," Obeidat noted. "Should the government

act accordingly, it will no doubt win the support and confidence of the whole nation."

Obeidat attacked those elements who benefited from certain political situations to deepen the gap between the ruling authority and the ruled masses, and those who succeeded in poisoning Jordanian people's self-confidence at a critical moment in the region's history.

These elements, he said, acquired major gains and made material profits by exploiting institutions, including the legislative institution, in order to provide protection for their illegitimate gains. They have succeeded in that course of action due to the political vacuum in the country and because of the absence of authority to call them to account for their deeds," Obeidat said.

Those elements, he added, have exceeded all limits in their actions, exploited Jordan's economy and accumulated wealth at the expense of the majority. "In this situation, there has been a retreat of justice, and this in turn encouraged encroachment on public funds, giving way to corruption on a large scale," Obeidat pointed out.

He said: "Because of all this we are now paying the price of our silence and condoning such excessiveness and major blunders."

"Indeed the public's despair increased by the lapse of time, and due to the general licence that swept the country, there was no public willingness to confront those elements who continually escaped retribution," Obeidat noted.

The failure on the part of the previous house of parliament to deal with the situation, paved the way for those elements to persist in their actions at a time when all forms of legitimate



Ahmad Obeidat

opposition vanished and when all chances for constructive criticism were doomed," Obeidat said.

What happened in the past few years, Obeidat pointed out, has contributed towards an aggravation of the situation to a large extent. "What we witnessed was an economic recession and not a single solution for the problem of unemployment."

"The past few years saw a fever in currency speculation, involvement of certain banks in underhand dealings, the creation of a blackmarket, the first to be witnessed in Jordan; all of which led to a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and a decline in the public's confidence in the national currency," Obeidat continued.

"Of course, the government was present all the time, watching everything and doing nothing to redress the situation; and of course, the silent majority paid the price..." he said.

Obeidat referred to previous government's declared policy to deal with pockets of poverty, but he said, unemployment and wide-scale poverty have been plaguing the country for the past four years. "This resulted

partly from rampant spending, unjustified imports of commodities that do not meet the needs of Jordan."

"Despite the government's knowledge of the critical stage of Jordan was going through, and despite the public awareness of the facts, the situation was allowed to aggravate, and the nation's foreign currency reserves continued to deplete, coupled with the depletion of the citizens' confidence in their institutions," Obeidat said.

"We noticed with great astonishment and dismay how the writers, the information services and the media were exploited to further mislead the public, distort the facts, to present the awkward policies as sound plans and to present the national economy as strong and the monetary situation as stable... But at the end everyone was disillusioned when the facts surfaced..." Obeidat said.

"Indeed Jordan lived through a period of frustration and total resignation and hopelessness before the regrettable incidents that occurred in the southern regions of the country. Since the people of Jordan were totally indignant and outraged at watching public funds being mishandled, and the citizens' interests ignored," Obeidat continued.

Control over public spending and abuse of authority was totally absent in the past years and matters could not have worsened to such degree had there been constitutional institutions to work as watchdogs and to provide guarantees, Obeidat said.

"For this reason the role of parliament is important and the coming Lower House will have to play a major role to enhance the spirit of law and order and to do justice to all," Obeidat added. "Jordan is in,

need of political reform and total commitment to serving the common interests and to safeguard the citizens' rights," Obeidat said. "We oppose any form of extremism and denounce violence of any kind. We believe that institutions should exercise their responsible role in a democratic manner and provide a guarantee for the continuation of the march towards development," Obeidat said.

He added: "We must deal firmly with all calls for divisions and regionalism and we should denounce any deviation from the law and should close the door for all sources of corruption..."

Obeidat expressed the view that imported and alien ideologies and formulas "were responsible for our loss over the past 25 years."

We hope, Obeidat said, the coming Lower House of Parliament will shoulder the responsibility of rectifying the situation.

"The present stage cannot tolerate any cosmetic treatment of partial solutions for the existing problems in the country. The majority of the people in Jordan is awaiting with eagerness to see just solutions to the numerous problems," Obeidat said.

"We have implemented numerous economic plans which yielded fruitful results, but we are now in need of a national political development plan to take the country to a safe harbour," Obeidat said.

Sweden's stability and economic development enabled it to set up a successful system to promote health and social development, the king said.

We should remember, Obeidat said, that "time is not on our side, and therefore we ought to work in earnest to restore the balance to the constitutional authorities of Jordan and to enable the central authority to wield power over expenditure in military as well as civilian fields."



King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia Wednesday attend a seminar on "prenatal brain damage causes — management and protection," at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

King Carl Gustaf, Queen Silvia inaugurate genetic laboratory

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia Wednesday inaugurated a genetic laboratory at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine.

They later opened a seminar on prenatal brain damage causes ... management and protection, organised jointly by the University of Jordan and the Swedish Royal Medical Society.

"Queen Silvia and I are delighted to see the fruits of joint Jordanian-Swedish cooperation in medical fields through the establishment of centres for the treatment of various diseases and conducting useful talks to deal with medical problems," King Carl said in his address.

Sweden's stability and economic development enabled it to set up a successful system to promote health and social development, the king said.

Vaccination against handicaps started in Sweden in the 1930s and various regional units have been set up to help rehabilitate handicapped children over the past two decades, the king added.

"Genetic matters are of great significance to the development of the human being and each country requires knowledge on heredity, and it should be emphasised that hereditary problems are responsible for 1.5 to 4.5 per cent of the total world children's diseases," the king said in his address.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, who attended the seminar, delivered another speech in his capacity as president of the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society, voicing Jordan's appreciation of Sweden's contribution to the conference.

Prince Ra'd said that Jordan's endeavours to promote health services succeeded in reducing child mortality rates from 80 to 40 per thousand in the past decade.

University President Mahmoud Al Samra addressed the opening session, outlining the university's activities and programmes, particularly its medical endeavours.

King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia Wednesday visited King Hussein Medical Centre and were briefed on its activities and services by National Medical Institution (NMI) Director General Daoud Hanania and the centre's director, Aref Bataineh.

Hanania briefed the distinguished visitors on NMI which commenced programmes in Jordan last year, and the specialised work of the King Hussein Medical Centre.

tries. The Swedish monarch said he

was impressed with the performance of the medical institutions and NMI's endeavours to modernise Jordanian medical and health services.

King Hussein, guests visit

frontline positions

Later Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein accompanied the king and queen of Sweden on a visit to the frontline positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division where they met with commanders and heard briefings on the troops' duties as well as the area's historic background.

The division commander presented the Royal guests with token gifts.

King Carl Gustaf, Queen Silvia and the accompanying delegation also visited Jerash and were briefed on its history as well as the historical stages the ancient city went through.

They were accompanied by Prince Ra'd, the Jordanian ambassador to Sweden, and the Swedish ambassador to Jordan.

Upon arrival in Jerash, they were received by Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat and a number of Jerash district officials.

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/

WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

TENDER NO. 39/89/VL

SUPPLY OF GATE VALVES, CHECK

VALVES AND BUTTERFLY VALVES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of gate valves, check valves and butterfly valves.

2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of gate valves, check valves and butterfly valves.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the documents at, the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO.

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 150.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, Saturday Oct. 28, 1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Hilayel opens course for women preachers

By Nermene Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The appointment was made a week in advance, upon "their" own request, but "they" would not define the meeting place until that same day. Four cars, filled with apprehensive yet excited reporters, drove along main roads and side-roads to reach a deserted shop somewhere in Amman.

Excitement was tinged with fear as the four cars waited for a signal, a signal which would lead to the meeting place of the political party.

Election time has highlighted the existence of the "idealists"; now the underground movement wants a seat at the centre stage of public participation and seeks some outlet to let its views be known. Zero hour came, and the media objects were called in to hear the announcement of the

names which, if successful, will "portray and defend the rights of the people," their leader said.

Why are you running out of hiding?

"We have decided to run in the elections on a national level, to reach parliament and ensure that there would be a serious initiation of a democratic movement for the good of the people."

Can you outline your campaign?

"Nothing has crystallised yet, but we want public participation in the solving of Jordan's problems."

But what about the other parties? Aren't they stronger than you?

"No, they were dealt a heavy blow when they did not help earlier, and they are disunited. What makes you different?"

"We have a deep realisation and understanding of the pitfalls

of this quest for recognition, and we know that we will not win unless we are united. It is our only weapon."

What are your fears?

"We will have very few fears after we register for the elections. But we hope that the government will not decide to use Article 18E of the Election Law against us."

Now, Article 18E stipulates that a candidate "should not be a member of an illegal grouping or party." The article defines as illegal "any part or organisation which contradicts, in its goals, aims and principles, the Jordanian constitution."

According to many who are aware of this trend, the basket may actually contain a few apples with definite and clear origins in the parliament, but they hope that these apples would not carry labels of foreign origins.

Although the slogans of emerging political parties stress the need for concentrating attention on national affairs affecting the daily lives of the Jordanian people, many voters fear that these slogans would later be replaced by imported political and economic ideologies.

The participants will be touring centres to have a close hand look at their services to the public.

The course which has been organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Health aims to help preachers spread health awareness among women in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Indian Trade Fair at the International Fair Centre, Marai Al Hamam. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for business visitors and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for general public.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Basoul at Irbid's Young Women's Centre.
- * A photo exhibition, with video shows and booklets, on the history of the Monarchy in Sweden at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photo exhibition by French artist Jean-Noel de Soye displaying photos projecting fashion accessories such as jewellery, caps, scarfs and belts, at the French Cultural Centre (the exhibition also displays slides on the history of fashion).
- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Barberi and Fadwa Jafal at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- FOLKLORE**
- * An evening of Caucasian folk dancing by the Waisach Folklore Group at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City — 8:30 p.m.
- FILM**
- * A feature film entitled "Ragtime" at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.

FOR SALE

Chinese and Persian carpets, silverware, crystal, and a variety of electric and household utensils.

Please call telephone 622576

CHURCH SERVICES

Anglican Church in Amman. Services this Sunday.

8 a.m. Holy Communion

6 p.m. Family Communion

Chaplain: Revd. William Taylor, Tel: 628543

ATTENTION PLEASE

WELCOME TO JORDAN

Welcome to the Bedouin Bazaar Exhibition with its new policy 20 per cent discount on all items to those who are interested in hand-made oriental rugs and carpets... The new management of the Bedouin Bazaar is pleased to inform you that we have recently received a very nice collection of hand-made oriental rugs and carpets, antique copper, brass, silver jewellery, embroidery and a variety of gifts and souvenirs. Cards are welcome.

Located between 7th and 8th circles next to the American School, near Chili House Restaurant.

Tel: 824485

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Amman Plaza Hotel has a vacancy for a dynamic Sales Executive. Suitable candidates should possess an excellent command of spoken and written Arabic & English.

Applicants must be ambitious with a ready willingness to learn. Smart appearance is essential and must be able to drive.

<p

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Cairo kindles hope

WHILE its premature to pass a final verdict on the Mubarak-Rabin meeting in Cairo Monday, what emerged from the encounter has spelled a certain degree of optimism that the Israeli and Palestinian sides are edging towards a breakthrough. If that happens, as it appears more probable now than ever, it would be due to the special role that President Hosni Mubarak is playing in putting the two parties on a talking course.

That the Palestinians and Israeli sides will ultimately start direct negotiations is a foregone conclusion. The only question is when and after how much more killings and suffering on both sides. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and some of his Likud partners are still holding on against any such dialogue if it entails the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories. The distinction being made by Shamir between the PLO supporters from within the West Bank and Gaza Strip and those in Tunis is at best semantical and artificial. This only suggests that Shamir's real intentions are to abort the peace process. The Labour leadership in Israel apparently knows this and is trying to penetrate this fact into the psyche of the diehard Likudists. That is why the Israeli coalition government, which is hanging by a thread, will ultimately collapse if the "Cairo initiative", as manifested in the 10 Egyptian points, continues to be rejected outright by Shamir. It must be borne in mind in this vein that the primary objective of Egypt's proposals is to engage the Israelis and the Palestinians in meaningful talks leading to elections and to the overall resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

There is now a guarded optimism that the three-hour Mubarak-Rabin talks are eventually going to bear fruit. What still divides the two sides is bridgeable, provided there is a genuine desire on the part of the ruling Israeli establishment to give peace in the Middle East a real chance to succeed. The whole world has a stake in making this opportunity come true in order to breathe new life into the peace process. Failing now to move forward may well be the kiss of death on all efforts to settle once and for all the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian newspapers Wednesday discussed the situation in Lebanon and the renewed mission of the Arab League's tripartite committee. Al Ra'i for its part said that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal is spearheading efforts to establish peace in Lebanon at the head of the committee which has been entrusted by the Arab League to bring the bloodshed to an end following contacts with the concerned parties. The paper said that the committee's plan just announced should form the basis for a lasting settlement among the Lebanese people. The plan should also enable the Lebanese government to safeguard the country's territorial unity and independence of Lebanon and resume its role as full member of the Arab League. The newspaper also touched on the Egyptian 10-point peace plan which it said aims to bring about a lasting settlement for the Palestine problem. For peace to be achieved, the paper said, all parties including the Israelis should manifest readiness to reach a lasting settlement that would ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland. The two plans, the paper concluded, await positive response on the part of all the involved parties in the Lebanese and Palestine problems. Perhaps the coming weeks, said the paper, will bring with them a ray of hope for optimism and a solution.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expresses the view that the Third World countries will never be able to pay back their debts to the rich industrialized nations unless they are transformed into countries with surplus in terms of money and in the balance of trade. Fadi Al Fawaz says that no one can believe that any Third World country can do that, given the present economic situation around the world; and therefore no one expects the debt to be repaid. The writer notes that only Romania among the indebted nations had been able to pay back the loans, thanks to a stern austerity programme that lasted for years and forced the Romanians to offer unbearable sacrifices. The writer points out that the Third World is indebted by \$1.3 trillion to the rich nations and sums unable and unwilling to pay back the loans without being helped to do so. But it should be noted says the writer, that the present situation resulted from an imbalance in trade among world nations; and therefore any endeavours to make the indebted nations pay back should involve contributions for the creditor countries themselves which can help the poor nations to rise again.

Al Dustour daily said that the tripartite committee on Lebanon has now resumed its activities, backed by the Arab League and the Arab heads of state. There is a long way before the committee can achieve concrete results, and there is no way achieving that end without serious and meaningful cooperation on the part of the involved parties, said the paper. The paper expressed the view that the Arab peace plan should form the basis for a lasting settlement in Lebanon a country that has long suffered from bloodshed and devastation. The committee's success in achieving a ceasefire in Lebanon, said the paper, was the first step towards a final settlement, and if a similar step is achieved shortly, it means that hope will be revived for the aspired settlement.

Shamir's election plan: an analysis

By Ali Al Jarbawi and F. Robert Hunter

The following article is reprinted from Sept. 8 issue of the London-based Middle East International.

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shamir's "election plan" is now five months old. Submitted to the U.S. government in April and approved in mid-May by the Israeli cabinet, the plan did not arise from Shamir's determined intention to begin negotiations with the Palestinians in order to reach a compromise that would put an end once and for all to the dispute between the two sides. On the contrary, it was the result of pressures which had been building up since the beginning of the intifada and which had reached the point where the prime minister was compelled to do something in order to alleviate the situation, at least temporarily. It was an attempt, therefore, to buy time.

These pressures had two sources. Within Israel, unrest and political polarisation were growing after more than a year of the intifada. The idea of holding elections in the territories was initially suggested by Defence Minister Rabin. And when Rabin and the Labour party began discussions with Palestinians there, Shamir feared his party would be outmanoeuvred and began to consider the idea of an initiative of his own.

Internal Israeli politics, then, was the initial motivation. On the external level, the PLO had gained a big public relations advantage after the PNC's proclamation of a Palestinian state and the American decision to open a dialogue with the organisation. This, along with continued criticism by Western countries of the violent methods used to suppress the intifada, had led to the build-up of world-wide pressures on Israel. In addition, the advent of the Bush administration aroused concern about a possible change of heart on the part of the Americans. Following his inauguration, President Bush invited Shamir to visit Washington, but he had accompanied this by direct signals that the prime minister should bring with him a definite proposal. Shamir was thus placed in a situation where he had to produce something.

That "something" was Rabin's idea of elections, fitted Likud specifications. Shamir's plan had to be a compromise. It would have to contain enough in it to satisfy the United States while not jeopardising the Likud's long-standing position of ceding "not an inch" of land in the occupied territories. This was accomplished by incorporating right-wing principles into the document in the section of the plan entitled "Basic Premises". These stated that Israel would not talk to the PLO, would not accept the establishment of "an additional" Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and would not agree to any change in the status of the territories.

Shamir traps the U.S.

In a sense, the Bush-Baker team had allowed themselves to be trapped by Shamir. They had asked for a plan, and once the prime minister produced one, they were stuck with it. According to the plan, Palestinians would elect representatives to conduct negotiations for a five-year transitional period of self-rule, during which Israel would be responsible for foreign affairs.

By Guy Diomme Reuter

PEKING — Six months after China imposed martial law on Lhasa to crush Tibetan national unrest, residents say the military crackdown is as severe as ever with no let-up in sight.

Troops operate checkpoints every 100 yards or so, the temples seem empty of monks and the hotels of tourists.

"Martial law in Peking is a Sunday picnic compared with Lhasa," said a Western academic just back from the remote Himalayan region.

Every major intersection is guarded by armed troops, many apparently teenagers from neighbouring Sichuan province. Soldiers are stationed regularly along main roads, checking identity papers and stopping traffic at night.

After six months of martial law, no let-up in Lhasa

All people entering Lhasa are required to have special papers. Armoured personnel carriers and military helicopters guard the outskirts of the regional capital.

One recent visitor was assailed with fierce shouts of "foreign devil" from a passing truck full of young ethnic Chinese soldiers.

In the heart of the ancient city, traders and pilgrims still mill about alleys surrounding the



da. They pressed the PLO to give a reserved acceptance of the plan, to say "yes" and qualify it. A faction inside Fatah also argued for this position. Members of Israel's Labour party got in on the act as well. "Grab it," they told the nationalist figures. Labour, they suggested, would help them later on.

As a result of the internal dialogue, the PLO changed its position. It sent signals that it was prepared to accept the plan subject to conditions, the most important of which were (1) that it be linked to the realisation of Palestinian national goals; (2) that Palestinians from outside the territories be represented in the delegation to negotiate a permanent solution; (3) that East Jerusalem residents be allowed to participate in the elections; (4) that there be international supervision of the elections; (5) that Israeli troops be withdrawn from the territories prior to elections.

Sharon steps in

It was at this point that the three Likud ministers (Sharon, Modai and Levy), fearing that the U.S. and Labour would divert the plan, imposed four conditions which narrowed and restricted it to the most minimum level. When that happened, the positive public image of the Shamir plan began to evaporate. The PLO and its supporters quickly capitalised on their opportunity. "The plan is dead," they said, "Sharon killed it." Having gone all out to support the plan, the Bush administration was not only embarrassed, but was also put under pressure to act. Some prominent American Jewish leaders leaned hard on the Israelis, telling Shamir that he simply could not abandon the plan. Shamir thus had no choice but to return to the proposal. He came back to the government for a vote reaffirming the original plan, and got it.

However, the failed attempt by the Likud right-wingers to impose their restrictions upon the Israeli government only made the plan more attractive. Talk was focused not upon the PLO's conditions, but upon the "victory" that had been won. The plan, almost dead, had been revived. Shamir's position as a "centrist" was strengthened. The prime minister now had the best of both worlds: the renewed backing of the United States, and within the Likud, a formal right-wing statement which would gain him support from the settlers and others. The plan was presented to the Palestinians as a gain. The time had come, American officials said, for the Palestinians to soften their position still further. "Seize the opportunity while you can," was the message. Inside the occupied territories, some Palestinian nationalist figures could be manipulated or tinkered with in the future, but first the PLO must accept it in entirety.

Like the United States, certain Palestinian figures (nationalist personalities who were also PLO supporters) wanted things to start moving. In their communications with the PLO leadership, they urged acceptance of the election idea but not of the plan as it stood. Total rejection, they argued, threatened to wipe out public relations gains achieved during the first year of the intifada.

As a result, some officials within the PLO establishment started sending signals that the PLO would lower its demands. Now its acceptance would be based upon two main conditions: (1) that there be a clear link between the plan and a final settlement; (2) that Palestinians outside the territories be part of the final delegation. The "other

thousands of troops and imposing martial law on March 8.

Sixteen people were killed during the March protests, according to official figures. Tibetans say many more died.

China dates its rule over Tibet back to the 13th century and says it will never give up sovereignty. Communist rule was enforced in the early 1950s by the People's Liberation Army.

Since martial law, troops have been seen encamped around Drepung in the hills outside Lhasa. Visitors to what was long ago the world's biggest Buddhist monastery said they saw few of the 400 or so monks supposed to be living there.

One Tibetan source, usually well-informed, said some monks from Ganden, another major Lhasa monastery, had been transported north to labour camps in Qinghai province.

Reunified Germany? Probably not in this century

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The picture of jubilant East German refugees clutching fresh West German passports brings an old U.S. policy question to the surface: Will Germany ever become one again?

Most U.S. analysts doubt reunification could take place this century but they say it could happen during the lifetimes of the East German emigrants who have made a mass westward exodus through Hungary and Austria in the past 10 days.

I do think that some form of closer association between West Germany and an East Germany which is greatly reformed, much more open, is possible," Riemer said. "I don't think people want to think about it except one step at a time."

A first step, one that is already

being contemplated, would be

along the path of economic reform being charted by the planned economic unification of Western Europe in 1992, the Brookings Institution's John Steinbruner said.

He said West Germany may press for stronger East German trade ties to Western Europe.

The key question, one analyst said, was not whether reunification could occur but in what context an economically and politically massive united Germany would exist.

The analyst said a cohesive Europe could more readily cope with the new entity but a united Germany would be hard to accept as long as Eastern Europe is "fundamentally in disarray."

Bush told reporters on Monday, "I would think it's a matter for the Germans to decide. But put it this way: If that was worked out between the Germans, I do not think we should view that as bad for Western interests. I think there's been a dramatic change in post-World War II Germany. And so I don't fear it."

Washington analysts are more circumspect. "Our position on reunification is nothing we trumpet from the rooftops," one said.

"Nobody thinks it'll be tomorrow or next year," said a State Department official who declined to be identified. "Historically

Europe has three important conditions," the analyst said. "It must come in peace, in freedom and integrated within the democratic community of nations of Europe."

OPEN FORUM

Ode to Lebanon

*Those beautiful years of my stay
In the country Lebanon, of my childhood,
Where I grew and inspired of
Rejoice beauties and happiness.*

*As a young girl going to school;
Which goes way back to 'thirties.
There I got the most high beliefs
Under its unforgettable walls.*

*It was the centre of ever burning
Science and education,
From all over lands people thronged
To get the very best teachings.*

*How can I forget the heavens,
High in the sky, wide and blue.
The green trees stand in one piece,
Cover the hills and vales and far away.*

*The twinkling waters deep in the valleys,
Crook their way between the mountains
Painted green, yellow, violet,
Invite the fingers of real art.*

*Or the villagers so diligent,
You can admire their attitude,
Proud of Lebanon the best land
Born on it! and ready to die.*

*Don't forbid them to live on its soil
Enjoy its waters running so pure,
Let them live! Don't spoil their jollity,
It's their land! They have the right.*

Pauline Swiss

LETTERS

People's health is more important

To the Editor:

ON reading the letter of Sept. 19 headed "NOT TRUE" and written by Dr. Qubain, I at first was relieved by thinking that this was referring to the smuggling of cooking fat. Then I realised that the doctor was really very indignant over a misquote in your paper, and rightly so.

Surely at such a time the head of the Primary Health Care at the Ministry of Health should have been more worried of the consequences to the health of the public than to his own personal feelings over the controversy of which laboratory was dealing with the tests in this case.

I believe, for public safety, that all suspect goods should be taken off the shelves of all retail outlets immediately, awaiting the results of tests to be confirmed. To know that this abominous substance was carried and stored in sewage tankers is enough proof even to the layman that it must be riddled with disease. We must be reassured by the health authority that our children, who are most at

risk in these cases, are being guarded against contaminated food.

Give us, the public, some facts. Let us know what is being done. The majority of Jordanians are intelligent adults, with the right to be treated as such.

The passing onto the public of food unfit for human consumption has spread world-wide and is a criminal act perpetrated by people of sub-human mentality for financial gain. The crime is theirs alone. But hiding the facts from the citizens is a crime also.

The rumours making the rounds at the moment are frightening. Could not an official statement be issued to clear the air and give us back our faith in the authorities concerned?

A very apt adage which comes to mind seems appropriate in this instance.

"Things should not just be done, but should be SEEN to be done."

Mrs. M.M. Uraizi
Amman

SEPT / SEPT

Ateliers de création, marketing, études de marchés.

Les premiers pas de la pub moderne

Plutôt discrète depuis trois ou quatre ans, la publicité reprend peu à peu du poil de la bête.
La majorité des 57 agences et producteurs indépendants ont aujourd'hui adopté le langage de la «modernité».
Aux campagnes d'imitation des slogans venus d'ailleurs, ils substituent leurs propres créations.
Mais les jeunes loups doivent se battre pour convaincre les entreprises de l'impact de la pub, et jongler sans cesse avec les tabous.

Le GOUVERNEMENT ISRAËLIEN est à nouveau menacé d'éclatement, après la visite-clé du ministre de la Défense, Yitzhak Rabin, lundi au Caire. «Cette crise est différente des autres», estimait il y a deux jours le commentateur politique de la radio militaire, car elle porte non pas sur des querelles de personnes, mais sur la question centrale du processus de paix». Un sentiment renforcé mardi par les déclarations du premier ministre à l'issue d'un entretien à huis clos d'une heure avec M. Rabin. Yitzhak Shamir a notamment reconnu que des «divergences d'opinion» existent bel et bien au sein du cabinet. Le chef du Likoud a également fait savoir qu'il ne pourrait maintenir «à n'importe quel prix» la coalition avec le Parti travailiste, en place depuis 1984. L'avertissement est à peine déguisé, comme le notaient le jour même le quotidien indépendant «Haaretz», selon lequel la droite n'exclut pas de provoquer des élections anticipées afin de reléguer le parti de M. Peres dans l'opposition. Il est vrai que le tête-à-tête Moubarak-Rabin rend la cohabitation entre les deux formations de plus en plus difficile, sinon incompréhensible. Au Caire, le ministre israélien de la Défense s'est prononcé en faveur du «plan en dix points» du président égyptien, déjà qualifié la semaine dernière de «base» de négociations par Shimon Peres lui-même. La fracture est on ne peut plus nette avec M. Shamir, qui rejette catégoriquement la «dangereuse» initiative d'Hosni Moubarak et refuse toute intégration de Palestiniens expulsés des territoires dans une délégation chargée de négocier les modalités des élections avec Tel-Aviv. Pour les travailleurs, le voyage du ministre chargé de la répression de l'Intifada aura au moins eu le «merite» de resserrer les rangs à l'intérieur du parti. «Faucons» et «colombes» ont en effet décreté une trêve dimanche et décidé de faire bloc derrière MM. Rabin et Peres.

Les relations entre LA FRANCE ET L'IRAN ont également été marquées cette semaine par une relance des négociations entre les deux pays. A l'issue d'une visite de 48 heures à Téhéran, le secrétaire général du ministère français des Affaires étrangères a qualifié de tournant les entretiens qu'il a eus notamment avec le chef de la diplomatie iranienne. François Sheer et Ali Akbar Velayati ont fait part lundi de leur souhait d'un renforcement des liens entre Paris et Téhéran. Une détente qui, pour la France, passe par le règlement des contentieux financiers entre les deux capitales. Contentieux qui portent d'une part sur le remboursement d'une dette d'un milliard de dollars, contractée en 1974 par le régime impérial pour le projet nucléaire civil «Eurodif» et, d'autre part, sur le montant de l'indemnité à verser par l'Iran aux entreprises françaises en dédommagement des contrats rompus après la révolution islamique de 1979 et que Paris évalue à plus de 2 milliards de dollars. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Fuite de gaz. Une «négligence» est à l'origine de l'importante fuite de chlorure, qui s'est produite samedi soir à l'usine de la Jordan chemical industries company à Zarqa. C'est ce qu'a indiqué dimanche, sans plus de détail, le procureur général de la ville, Ahmed al-Khatib. 129 personnes, légèrement intoxiquées par les émanations de gaz, ont toutes regagné leurs domiciles selon les autorités. L'enquête menée par trois médecins du département de l'Environnement a par ailleurs révélé que l'usine ne répondait pas aux normes de sécurité en vigueur dans le pays.

Israël-Hongrie. Tel Aviv et Budapest ont officiellement rétabli leurs relations diplomatiques lundi dernier à l'occasion de la visite en Hongrie du ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, Moshe Arens. La Hongrie est le premier pays de l'Est, exception faite de la Roumanie, à renouer avec l'Etat hébreu depuis la guerre de 1967. Le même jour, l'Autriche a annoncé qu'elle réduisait ses relations diplomatiques avec Israël en remplaçant son ambassadeur à Tel Aviv par un chargé d'affaires. Motif invoqué par Vienne: le refus israélien de nommer un ambassadeur dans la capitale autrichienne depuis l'élection de Kurt Waldheim à la présidence de la République en 1986.

Rendez-vous. Le plenum du Comité central du Parti communiste soviétique a annoncé mardi que le 28e congrès ordinaire du parti se réunirait en octobre 1990. Avancé de six mois, à la demande de Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le congrès devra désigner le nouveau Comité central du PCUS. Une congrès pour le numéro un soviétique d'y renforcer la position des partisans de sa politique de réformes.

Peine capitale. Amnesty International a lancé hier un appel aux gouvernements chinois, iranien, irakien, sud-africain, américain et soviétique afin qu'ils renoncent à appliquer la peine de mort. Cet «appel spécial» de l'organisation internationale de défense des droits de l'Homme, qui a recensé dans le monde au moins 1.600 exécutions pendant les huit premiers mois de l'année, intervient à l'occasion du lancement d'une semaine d'action contre la peine capitale. Amnesty estime qu'un changement dans ces six pays pourrait «réaviver la tendance» dans le recours aux exécutions «cruelles et arbitraires».

Drogue. Un mandat d'arrêt a été lancé lundi par le tribunal de Bogota à l'encontre de deux anciens militaires israéliens, Yair Gal Klein et Arik Acek. Les deux hommes, accusés d'association de malfaiteurs, sont poursuivis dans le cadre d'une enquête sur la participation présumée de mercenaires étrangers à l'entraînement de tueurs à gages au service des trafiquants de drogue colombiens. L'ancien secrétaire au Trésor américain, Donald Regan, a pour sa part proposé lundi que le gouvernement modifie la couleur ou la taille des billets de 50 et 100 dollars.

Près de 324 millions. L'Europe de l'Ouest comptait 323.753.000 habitants au 1er janvier 1987, selon le dernier calcul homogène à toute la Communauté publié dans la revue mensuelle de l'institut français INED (Institut national d'études démographiques), «Population et Sociétés». Le pays le plus peuplé restait l'Allemagne Fédérale (61,1 millions d'habitants), suivie de l'Italie (57,3), de la Grande-Bretagne (56,9), de la France (55,6), loin devant le Luxembourg (0,37). Selon l'INED, le taux européen de natalité était de 11,8 pour mille (contre 11,9 en 1986) et le taux de mortalité de 9,9 pour mille (9,1 en 1986). 27,1% des Européens avaient moins de 19 ans et 19,1% plus de 60 ans.

Grève. La grève, entamée le 5 septembre en France par les ouvriers de la firme automobile Peugeot s'est durcie en début de semaine avec la menace, brandie par le personnel d'encadrement, de se joindre au mouvement, si la direction continuait à refuser l'ouverture de négociations. Les syndicats réclamaient des hausses de salaires mensuels de l'ordre de 250 francs à 1.500 francs (37 à 224 dollars), suite aux bénéfices records enregistrés par le constructeur en 1988 et estimés pour 1989. Selon la direction de Peugeot, la grève aurait déjà coûté 100 millions de dollars à l'entreprise.

Extrémiste écroué. Le président du Parti nationaliste français et européen (PNFE), groupuscule d'extrême droite, a été écroué samedi dernier à Paris pour incitation à des atteintes racistes. Claude Commeau, 53 ans, est soupçonné d'avoir encouragé deux attentats commis contre des frères de travailleurs immigrés sur la Côte d'Azur (sud de la France), qui s'étaient soldés par la mort d'un locataire.

Guerre catholique. La bataille fait rage pour le contrôle de la cinquième chaîne de télévision française, la Ciné, entre son président actuel, Robert Hersant, et le «roi» du petit écran italien, Silvio Berlusconi, allié au puissant industriel français Jérôme Seydoux. Le premier, (25% des actions) a fait annuler lundi dernier, par le tribunal de commerce de Paris un conseil d'administration convoqué sur l'initiative des seconds et qui devait consacrer l'accession au tandem Berlusconi (25%) - Seydoux (7,28%) à la tête de la Ciné. La chaîne, qui occupe aujourd'hui le troisième rang des télés françaises, avec environ 15% d'audience, a accumulé 1,7 milliards de francs (254 millions de dollars) de pertes en deux ans d'exercice.

Hitham Ajlouni (à gauche), archétype de la «nouvelle génération des publicitaires, qui ne croient pas du tout à l'affichage publicitaire et se concentrent sur la télévision.



Hitham Ajlouni (à gauche), archétype de la «nouvelle génération des publicitaires, qui ne croient pas du tout à l'affichage publicitaire et se concentrent sur la télévision.

Bassem Dajani.

La crise, allié objectif?

Les patrons d'al-Raed et de JAAI partagent également le sentiment que la crise financière et économique, qui va croissante depuis 1985, a facilité la tâche publicitaire. «Quelle que soit la situation du marché, il faut d'abord qu'un publicitaire prouve à son client l'impact de sa campagne», affirme-t-il. Beaucoup d'agences sont tombées en bâtiissant d'énormes projets, alors qu'il faut commencer avec un coup d'essai, à très petite échelle. Une fois opérée la connexion entre publicité et augmentation des ventes, on peut penser à un budget annuel».

Autre ombre indéniable au tableau: la récession a plus réduit le nombre de clients qu'amener de nouvelles entreprises à la publicité. Une tendance dont ne souffre guère JAAI, pour laquelle le marché national arrive loin derrière les pays du Golfe. D'autres, comme Arab Tele Media (ATM), spécialisée dans la production de spots commerciaux pour la télévision, reconnaissent que l'arrêt brutal des importations s'est traduit par une chute vertigineuse des commandes.

marketing depuis le début des années 1989 considère pour sa part que le marasme économique ne changera pas de fond en comble la mentalité des industriels et des distributeurs jordaniens.

«Quelle que soit la situation du marché, il faut d'abord mis fin aux gaspillages», explique Bassem Dajani. Aujourd'hui, le client tient à discuter avec nous, à connaître notre avis de professionnels». Plus pragmatique encore, Hitham Ajlouni voit dans les déboires de l'économie jordanienne, le début de l'âge d'or de la pub, «la vraie». «Le gâteau se réduisant, les sociétés sont obligées de se battre avec deux fois plus d'acharnement. Elles se rendent compte peu à peu que la publicité, donc leur image de marque, constitue l'un des éléments incontournables de leur survie».

Le petit nuage rose, que les agences de publicité croient d'ores et déjà aperçue à l'horizon, n'apparaît cependant pas aussi évident à tout le monde. Tony Sabbagh, consultant en

Des quelque 300 spots publici-

taires que nous avons produits depuis la création de la société en 1982, 230 l'ont été entre 1984 et 1987, souligne le directeur d'ATM, Adnan Awamleh. Depuis un an, c'est le grand vide». Un vide d'autant plus impressionnant que parmi la quinzaine de clients réguliers d'ATM figurent la Royal Jordanian, Fine, Pepsi et la majorité des grands hôtels d'Amman. «Il y a encore deux ans, on voyait des séquences publicitaires d'une vingtaine de spots à la télévision», ajoute le directeur de la JAAI, selon lequel le petit écran représente plus de 60% du marché de la publicité en Jordanie.

Alain Renon.

Contourner les interdits

Rares sont en effet les publicitaires qui croient à l'affichage publicitaire. «Ce sont des emplois achetés aux municipalités, qui coûtent 100 à 120 dinars par mois et qui tombent rapidement en ruine», estime Bassem Dajani.

Quant aux journaux, ils sont bien plus chers, selon Adnan Hawamleh. «Une page du «Rai» coûte 600 dinars et vous aurez un mal

à savoir quel public vous allez viser au moins une fois par jour.

(1) Il n'existe aucun chiffre global officiel du marché de la publicité en Jordanie. Tous supposent confondus (télé, journaux, affichage...). Il culmine entre 4 et 4,5 millions de dollars selon la JAAI.
 (2) Selon une étude menée en 1988 par un cabinet de consultants, 72% des adultes Jordaniens et Cisjordaniens regardent quotidiennement la télé en 1980 et 21h30, 98% de la population totale pousse le bouton du téléviseur au moins une fois par jour.

19 morts de la Guadeloupe à Porto-Rico

Le cyclone Hugo ravage les Caraïbes

Le cyclone Hugo, qui a touché lundi dernier l'île de Porto-Rico, avance toujours, hier soir en direction des Bahamas et de la Floride. En cinq jours, les vents de plus de 200 kilomètres par heure, ont fait au moins 19 morts et des dizaines de milliers de sans-abri.

Avec un front de 80 kilomètres de large et des rafales de vent atteignant les 250 km/h, «Hugo» est le plus violent cyclone que les Caraïbes aient connu ces dix dernières années*. Depuis samedi, la tempête a provoqué la mort de 19 personnes, dont 6 sur la seule île de Porto-Rico (3,3 millions d'habitants), dernière victime du cataclysme.

C'est la pire catastrophe depuis 50 ans», a déclaré lundi James Foster, délégué à la Chambre des représentants du territoire associé aux Etats-Unis, en ajoutant que le cyclone avait fait 5000 sans-abri. Les vents ont emporté de nombreux toits, notamment dans la capitale San Juan, retourné des voitures et détruit l'aéroport, ont été considérablement endommagés.

Comme à Porto-Rico, les principaux problèmes posés par la tempête concernent le relogement des sinistrés, l'alimentation de la population en eau potable, le dégagement des routes et le rétablissement des lignes téléphoniques ou électriques, endommagées.

Plus vrai que nature

Issam, peintre en photographie

Artiste, Issam Pest jusqu'à bout du pinceau. Peintre depuis sa plus tendre enfance, ce jeune Palestinien d'Hébron a mis sa technique au service d'une profession originale. A l'aide de crayons importés de Crème et d'un peu d'eau, il met en couleurs des agrandissements de photos noir et blanc. Tous les studios d'Amman lui confient les commandes de leurs clients, qu'il exécute à un rythme endiablé. Plastid cocasse.

Une boîte de peinture à l'eau, dans laquelle trempe une dizaine de lamelles de papier colorant; ses pinceaux, ses crayons à portée de main; un rectangle de contreplaqué sur lequel il travaille; quelques photos de cinéma et des portraits pris au hasard au mur; le tout dans un minuscule recoin, entre le magasin, le studio et le laboratoire. C'est là qu'Issam Shashin passe quotidiennement 17 à 18 heures, 7 jours sur 7, à peindre quidams, personnages, quand ce n'est pas le roi lui-même.

Avec des gestes précis et rapides, il passe le pinceau, puis le doigt et un chiffon humide sur le cliché imbibé, agrandissant de photo qu'on lui a apporté tout ce qu'il a lui-même fait. A vous de lui indiquer les couleurs dans lesquelles vous souhaitez que vos représentations ou de laisser libre cours à votre imagination. Le résultat est un tantinet irréaliste, avec une patine digne des grands tableaux.

Photographe et peintre, Issam est depuis 5 ans la pierre anglaise de «Gamate Studio». Son patron et ami, originaire comme lui d'Hébron, sait qu'il lui doit le succès de son commerce, où la clientèle défile sans cesse. «Tous les magasins de photos d'Amman

génés à plus de 80%. 60 pompiers et secouristes, qui avaient participé aux missions françaises envoyées au Mexique et en Arménie après les tremblements de terre, sont arrivés sur place dès dimanche soir, l'île voisine de la Martinique, relativement épargnée.

La situation restait encore dramatique hier sur l'île de Montereau où 6 habitants ont également trouvé la mort dimanche. 95% des habitations ont été sérieusement endommagées, mettant l'immense majorité des 12.000 résidents de la colonie britannique à la rue, sans abri et sans vivres. La marine nationale anglaise a aussitôt dépêché l'un de ses bâtiments qui a pu entamer lundi soir une aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Deux personnes ont par ailleurs été tuées à Antigua, dont l'aéroport était encore fermé hier. Des dégâts considérables ont enfin été enregistrés à Sainte-Croix et Saint-Thomas, où se concentrent la plupart des 106.000 habitants des îles Vierges. Aucun bilan n'a cepen-

dant été fourni par les autorités locales.

Depuis lundi soir, l'œil du cyclone se trouve à nouveau au dessus de l'océan Atlantique, où, selon les météorologues américains, il a repris de la vitesse. Après avoir menacé la république dominicaine, «Hugo» a pris le chemin des Bahamas, vers lesquelles il progresse à une vitesse d'environ 16 km/h.

La Floride et les Carolines pourraient également faire partie des prochaines victimes du cyclone. Etudiant avec minutie la progression de la tempête, les responsables de la Nasa, l'agence spatiale américaine, envisageaient mardi de suspendre momentanément ses activités. Le lancement de la fusée Atlantic, prévu pour le 12 octobre depuis Cap Canaveral, pourrait ainsi être reporté, si «Hugo» s'approche trop dangereusement de la côte Est des Etats-Unis. (D'après agences).

(*) En 1979, le cyclone «David» avait fait 1.200 morts dans les Caraïbes.

Shopping

A l'écoute des années 50

Regime, de Miles Forman, avec James Olson, Mary Steenburgen, James Cagney, Pat O'Brien et Elizabeth McGovern. Les aventures d'une famille des classes moyennes dans une petite ville américaine, prise dans les tourbillons du début du siècle.

Centre culturel français, lundi 21 septembre à 20h00 (en anglais).

A l'affiche

CINEMA

Regime, de Miles Forman, avec James Olson, Mary Steenburgen, James Cagney, Pat O'Brien et Elizabeth McGovern. Les aventures d'une famille des classes moyennes dans une petite ville américaine, prise dans les tourbillons du début du siècle.

Centre culturel français, lundi 21 septembre à 20h00 (en anglais).

EXPOSITIONS

La mode accessoire. Loin de la haute couture, il existe une mode de tous les jours, une mode de la rue. Plutôt que sur le vêtement, c'est sur l'accessoire que le photographe Jean-Noël de Soye a braqué son objectif.

Bijoux, casquettes, foulards, ceintures, gants... Avec en toile de fond, un diaporama sur l'histoire de la mode et son industrie.

Centre culturel français, jusqu'au lundi 28 septembre.

TELEVISION

Catherine de Medici (1ère partie), d'Yves-André Hubert, avec Jean Daric, Vincent Gauthier

From Taihang road to Spark programme

A backward mountainous region in China has succeeded in shedding poverty by teaching farmers to use simple agrotechniques.

By Jing Ruyue and Ma Jianming

ZHANG RUNSHEN, an agronomist of Hebei Agricultural University, met with strong resistance the first time he went to a village in western Hebei province, China, to teach villagers how to prune walnut trees.

"We have only seen men get their hair cut, but never trees barbed," they declared.

It was only after repeated persuasions that the agronomist was allowed to try his skill on a sterile old tree.

The following autumn, the tree produced twice as many walnuts as before. This so convinced the villagers that Zhang is now the most welcome guest in the region.

For Chinese agronomists and government officials, encounters like this are commonplace in many underdeveloped areas of China. It has finally dawned upon them that what the villagers most

need are often basic, rudimentary agrotechniques instead of costly, grand projects.

The understanding prompted the State Science and Technology Commission to launch in 1981 a cost-effective programme of developing mountainous areas. Hebei's Taihang mountain area was selected as the target region for its harsh natural conditions and generally poor living standards of the people there.

The programme has proved to be a success, according to Wang Zhengguo, director of the Office for Developing Mountainous Areas under Hebei provincial government. In the past eight years, the government invested U.S. \$3 million in agrotechnique dissemination in the Taihang mountains, but increased economic returns during the same period totalled \$118 million and have kept growing at

annual rate of over \$27 million.

The investment went mainly to developing fruit cultivation and the establishment of small poultry and livestock farms. Altogether there are 15 projects covering walnut, persimmon, chestnut, Chinese date, wild jujube, pear, strawberry, watermelon, maize, rabbit, hen and mink, among others.

"To start with, we selected 500 experimental villages on the basis of their resources," Wang said.

After being proved a success, technical training was spread to all other villages. As a result, such simple techniques as pruning, grafting and control of plant diseases and pests led to drastic growth in fruit production.

The total output of fresh and dried fruits in the mountainous areas of Hebei more than tripled during the 1981-1988 period.

The same is true with poultry and livestock raising. In 1981, there were just 524 stud rabbits in the Taihang mountain area. Five years after the programme started, the area was raising 12 million rabbits in 1986 and earned

up to \$30 million by exporting frozen rabbit meat.

In the beginning, the Hebei provincial government sent 1,000 technicians to the Taihang mountains to train local farmers. After they left, the 30,000 trainees have taken their place. Unlike provincial agro-technicians who offered services free of charge, local agro-technicians are paid by farmers for training classes and other services. This has promoted production as well as the dissemination of agrotechniques.

An agro-technician, for example, is paid \$0.27-1.35 for pruning each tree and then he or she may say a package contract with the farmer for caring for an orchard.

"The farmers are eager to learn and willing to pay," said Agro-Technician Yuan Shufang, who has set up a service offering horicultural techniques.

Farmers have quickly shed poverty. Zhao Ping, a farmer in Xiyucuo Village, Cixian County, for example, was burdened with a debt \$1,613 before 1983. In that year, technicians from the county government helped Zhao set up a



A small rabbit breeding farm built on the roof of a farmer's house in Daloushi Village, North China.

of canned fruit to Hong Kong and southeast Asia a year.

It is no wonder that the "Taihang Road" is the precursor of the national "Spark Programme" aimed at transforming rural

China by a wide dissemination of agrotechniques. The name of the programme comes from a Chinese proverb: "A single spark can start a prairie fire" — China features

Messages for life

By Diana Smith

CHILDREN are dying all over the developing world. Not from neglect, nor from poverty alone, but because parents do not have the knowledge to deal with their child's health problems — so argues a new document from UNICEF.

"Children are dying as a result of a failure to communicate" says James Grant, head of the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. "Parents and families, properly supported, could save two-thirds of the 14 million children who die every year — if only they were properly informed and

motivated."

So UNICEF and two other U.N. agencies — the World Health Organisation and the U.N. Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) — have joined forces to fill the gap with an information campaign called "Facts for Life."

They recognise the difficulty of trying to reach parents directly so are targeting their campaign at communicators: local journalists, broadcasters, entertainers and others to pass on the message.

They first compiled a list of "Top Ten" issues which parents must know about: the timing of births; safe motherhood; breast-

feeding; child growth; immunisation; diarrhoea; coughs and colds; home hygiene; malaria; and AIDS.

Then they commissioned experts to research and produce concise manuals for communicators to highlight the messages to be circulated (also called *Facts for Life*), and techniques for doing this entitled *Health for All*.

The clear and attractively produced manuals were launched during the 19th International Congress of Paediatrics in Paris in July.

Speaking at the campaign launch, Dr. Mark Belsey, chief of Maternal and Child Health at

WHO, said the messages in the book were "the result of decades of research. Under the auspices of WHO, the findings of this research have been revived by scientists throughout the world who have concluded that they are scientifically sound, socially relevant and can be readily applied in every home and family."

The language is clear and direct. Each chapter tackles one of the ten priority messages opening with a note to communicators stressing why this issue is so important. There then follow seven headlined messages on diarrhoea, backed up with detailed

descriptions of each important issue. Although, some critics argue that the manual is occasionally paternalistic in its approach and makes insufficient allowance for existing knowledge and skills, it has generally been well received as a major step towards the United Nations goal of health for all by the year 2000.

It is believed that never before has so much child health information been compiled and so succinctly presented in an 80-page booklet, or drawn on the talents of so many international advisers and institutions.

Until now, child health campaigns have suffered from too many different groups putting out inconsistent health messages. Thus, in Oman, officials who wanted to develop training materials on pre-natal care, had to set up a multi-sectoral task force involving every institution; they then had to thrash out a set of messages before work could begin on developing the teaching aids and information materials.

Facts for life

This should no longer be necessary. Since *Facts for Life* has



Ma Tongqian, a young farmer in Tangxian County, owns one of the largest fruit canning factories. It produces an annual output value of more than \$1.35 million.

been produced with the help of leading health experts from all over the world, it can lay claim to a degree of universality although local political, social and economic realities will determine the emphasis placed on some messages rather than others.

But the most effective media must also be mobilised to get message through to parents. This is the purpose of the second manual for communicators, *Health for All*.

It describes techniques and experiences which communicators can use, reaching out beyond the media and the teaching profession to non-governmental organisations, health workers, trade unions, and to business, religious and government leaders and officials, artists and entertainers. Many examples are cited of practical ways in which these groups can use their skills to put over vital child health messages to the public at large.

One describes how 2,500 field-workers from the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) visited nine million homes to teach mothers how to

prepare simple yet life-saving oral rehydration solutions, using raw sugar and salt. BRAC followed this up with radio and television spots to reinforce the information. — PANOS

Jackson Hole — superpower meeting place among eagles and elk

By Roger Filion
Reuter

JACKSON — Jackson Hole is a far cry from Washington or Geneva, but this superpower meeting place where elk roar and eagles soar promises Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze a taste of old American west.

Shevardnadze, who meets U.S. Secretary of State James Baker there Sept. 22 and 23, has already been offered a ride in an authentic stagecoach, courtesy of Daryl Sparks, a former cowboy who, like many, has abandoned cattle herding for tourism.

Sparks, a lanky, tanned figure in traditional boots, blue jeans and cowboy hat, said: "I'd be glad to give anybody a ride," when asked if he would take Shevardnadze on his stagecoach.

Sparks is among many who cater to a thriving tourist trade in the once-sleepy cowboy town of Jackson, about 55 kilometres south of where Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials will meet a team led by Baker.

Sparks, who was a cowboy for most of his 60 years, symbolises



Baker

The wooden boardwalks and the elk antler arches decorating the main square are reminiscent of an old west town.

But the smart stores and boutiques that sell anything from turquoise jewellery to coyote skulls speak of the modern age.

"We've become a tourist trap," said Paul Walton, a 75-year-old rancher. "It's gone from a ranching community to a tourist community."

Off the western edge of square stands the "million dollar cowboy bar." Within its dim interior are cowboy murals, a stuffed grizzly bear and other animals. Horse saddles serve as bar stools, and 644 authentic silver dollars are embedded in one of the counter tops.

But there are some here who fear overexposure will only have

ten the development process that has turned ranch land into golf courses and resorts and sent real estate prices surging.

Lea Carman of the Jackson Hole alliance for responsible planning calls the superpower meeting a "mixed blessing," and laments the impact of the development.

"The off seasons aren't off anymore," Carman says. "The highways are crowded and development is booming."

Wildlife abounds within Grand Teton national park. Moose wade belly-deep in the streams, surprising hikers. Bald eagles and the rare trumpeter swan are also found.

When all the superpower fuss is over, they'll still be there — along with the golfers, the skiers, the tourists and the cowboys.

Downey both offended and delighted

Joyce A. Venezia
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY — Morton Downey Jr. made a name for himself as the king of confrontation. But after two years of controversy, the most obnoxious show on American television is going off the air.

Downey's programme raised eyebrows, ire and, to a certain extent, social conscience. He also made people laugh and attracted adoring live audiences who appreciated his no-holds-barred styled.

"Guests knew they would be subjected to a verbally — and sometimes physically — abrasive, opinionated Downey screaming close to their faces.

"But stations that aired the non-network show might have grown weary of hitting the 'bleep' button to eliminate the obscenities. And advertisers apparently were wary of appearing between segments of Downey's talk show. Without enough consistent advertising, it was dropped.

To many television critics, the cancellation is not a great loss. Others say Downey blazed the trail for "shock" television.

"The tradition of someone saying controversial things goes back a long way in radio. Mort Downey just passed beyond some

previous standards," said George Comstock, a public communications professor at Syracuse University.

"Downey's strong following began to deteriorate as he became more abrasive than he could handle with good humor," Comstock said. "The show began to slide from 'controversial but real' to 'ridiculous put-on.'

Homosexual rights

Downey's reputation was not helped by the complaints and lawsuits filed against him and his show. In April 1988, Downey was acquitted on charges that he slapped a homosexual-rights activist.

Four months later, the editor of weekly newspaper filed a complaint that Downey scuffled with him during a show and another four months later, Downey was sued by a radio personality who claims Downey assaulted him during a five panel discussion on gun control.

Most controversial was Downey's allegation that a group of skinheads attacked him in San Francisco airport. Scepticism arose when a former associate said Downey had been planning a press stunt to boost his show's ratings.

Jane Marion, an associate editor at TV Guide weekly magazine who has interviewed Downey several times, said that in reality,

Downey "is an extremely likeable man."

"Even he is tired of this persona he created," she said. "I don't want to say he sabotaged his own show, but he was ready to move on and he appealed only to a certain segment of the television audience."

Downey agrees that being Morton Downey was hard work, albeit satisfying.

"It was tiring for me to always be the aggressor," he said. "Never again, though."

Downey's unique talk show started out as a cable television item in 1987, and soon advanced to the masses via syndication in 1988.

"It was a quick burst, like a comet," said Howard Rosenberg, a television critic for the Los Angeles Times. "To me, he was the extreme. I predicted from the beginning that he would be gone within two years."

Ms. Marion said that Downey "came on the air like a steam train. It was trendy TV, and trends are born and die just as quickly."

Rosenberg found Downey's show "offensive and dangerous, not because of the ideas he espoused but because of the volatile environment he fermented. I'm glad he went off the air before anything dangerous happened."

He also said he is working on a new talk show with a "new structure that would absolutely work. It would be radical, but not offensive."

Sauter thinks that would be seen as charade and it, too, would flop.

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Features

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Focus on People

Fitness for life

By Mariam M. Shahin

AS THE fitness and sports conscious around the world are becoming increasingly interested in the art of muscle-toning and body-building, Jordanians, young and old, men and women, are also opting to participate in this area of sports which is meant to lift their physical capabilities to new heights. Tarek Khourma a young Jordanian who has been involved with sports since childhood, is doing his share in fulfilling the demand of those Jordanians who wish to attain those heights. This week Khourma talks to Focus on People.

WHILE physical fitness has been known throughout history to be beneficial to health, increase longevity, productivity and boost self-confidence, in the second half of the 20th century many people in Jordan and elsewhere have been caught up in the office routine. People sit at their office desks seven to 10 hours a day and afterwards exchange their office chairs for a lazy chair or a sofa at home. Lack of attention to physical education in schools and subsequently lack of physical fitness has been noted by educationalists and physicians in the Kingdom.

Creating awareness, however, is not an easy task. While more and more conscious walkers and joggers are visible in the southern districts of Amman, they are unlikely to represent a significant proportion of Jordanians.

During their school years, many young Jordanians, especially boys, actively involve themselves in sports of various sorts. Tarek Khourma, like many of his compatriots has always been interested in sports. Although he attended a Swiss-international school from 7th to 12th grade, he spent his summer vacations in Amman where he became Jordan's diving champion, a title which he retains to this day. While at school in Geneva, he was actively involved in track and field competitions and at one point became European school champion in the 100- and 200-metre sprinting events.

Although Khourma seriously considered becoming professionally involved with sports when he went to the United States to continue his studies, he eventually dropped the idea, graduating with a degree in business administration from a university in upstate New York.

After returning to Jordan, Khourma, now 25, like all Jordanian men of his generation, served in the Armed Forces for two years. He remembers telling his father that he had made plans with a Turkish classmate in the U.S. to work in the U.S. once he finished the military service. "My father didn't say 'don't go', instead he suggested that I stay in Jordan and start some sort of fitness club and that is precisely what I did," Khourma remembers.

With the financial backing of his father and in cooperation with his two brothers the "Power Hut" came into being. Located in central Shmeisani on a plot of land consisting of four dumuns the hut has become "the talk of the town" among the athletically conscious in Amman. While gyms and work out places have sprung up all over the city, the hut stands out in certain aspects.

"We have created two shifts, one for women who represent about one fourth of our present clientele, and one for men. Women can work out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. while the men's shift is from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m."

"At present we are planning to expand our work out facilities because to be honest, I didn't think that women would represent such a large portion of our clientele. The way things are going now in a year or half of our clientele could be female."

"We offer food supplements to our clientele because they need it while they are working out. After the workout protein supplements are available. When people start becoming fit, they also need to start watching their diet. It is after all an essential part of being fit. We have two trainers who are at the hut throughout the shifts, one trainer for the women and another trainer for the men. They draw up a monthly programme for the client depending on their physical fitness and depending upon if they want to body build or tone their muscles."

Although most men join fitness clubs in order to become fit, "most of them end up working out with the intention of becoming body builders," Khourma says.

While the vast majority of the female clientele stick to becoming fit, one can see an increasing number of Jordanian men with bulging muscles, which the younger ones often like to show off in tight fitting tee-shirts.

Khourma describes the workout as a "natural high," to which you can get addicted. "There is a challenge in working out on the different machines, there is always a few more kilos which could be lifted or personal record to be broken," Khourma says.

According to his estimates, 80 per cent of those who joined the club five months ago are still members. The club is visited by an average of 100 clients daily. The regularity in which the client works out will be reflected through his fitness. The minimum number of times a week that an individual should work out is three. Some people work out every day but the average person comes to the gym every other day.

Recently, the Jordanian National Basketball Team and members of the squash team have begun working out in the gym on a regular basis. "Working out — or weight training in particular — increases your speed and performance in other sports, so naturally a lot of athletes join clubs such as ours," Khourma affirms.

Khourma hopes to expand the club on a yearly basis, in order to meet the increasing demand and growing awareness of physical fitness. The plans include squash courts, a swimming pool as well as more work out rooms.

Working out on a regular basis, makes you plan your whole day, increasing both the efficiency and productivity of a person. "Once you commit yourself to being fit by working out, your whole life becomes fit as well."

One of the machines at the hut is called a life cycle. It comes in the shape of a bicycle. The bike takes its rider through different speeds, some of which require him/her to exert the effort of someone going uphill, after which there is a straight cycle, followed by a downhill cycle.. the rider keeps on going through the cycles of life.

Kenya and Tanzania: joining forces to fight the tsetse fly

KENYA and Tanzania have signed an agreement on a joint project aimed at controlling the tsetse fly, which infects one-third of the African continent. The fly transmits trypanosomiasis in man and livestock. Winnie Ogana reports from Nairobi.

The project's first phase will involve three months of research on the types of tsetse fly prevalent in the Kagera River basin. The basin spans Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. One exercise will be to map the areas where the fly breeds.

One quarter of Kenya is infested with the fly. Over 60% of the land most suitable for live-

stock production is infested. Only heavy use of insecticides and drugs keeps animals alive.

The project will pave the way for the expansion of human settlement, arable land, livestock grazing areas and the development of transport and natural energy resources in affected areas.

There are 23 species of tsetse fly which infect over 10 million square kilometres of land in 37 African countries. The pest endangers the health and agricultural potential of over 350 million people, and puts 160 million head of cattle at risk. —PANOS



Bogota's funeral for presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan

Cocaine, guns and coffee: Why the Colombian drug war drags on

By Harold Ohnos
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — In the 3-week-old drug war between the government and Colombia's billionaire cocaine barons, neither side has the upper hand. Some experts believe the stalemate could drag into the next century.

Despite daily bombings, shootings and arson, the traffickers have failed to intimidate the government. For its part, the government has been unable to root out top traffickers, who are in hiding and protected by private armies.

President Virgilio Barco has told Colombians to brace for "more pain and suffering" and predicted the war will be "long and hard to win."

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said the violent stand-off "will go beyond year 2000" if the government continues a crackdown, launched after the Aug. 18 assassination of a popular presidential candidate.

President Barco's determination and \$65 million in U.S. military aid to fight the drug cartels, other factors could determine how long the bitter struggle lasts.

The main factor is the economy, which is heavily dependent on coffee.

Colombia exports coffee, coal and oil, and international prices for all three are nose-diving.

Coffee is a factor

Coffee is the top foreign exchange earner — almost \$1.5 billion last year — and its slumping prices are blamed on the inflexibility of the United States.

Colombian government officials complain that what Washington gives with one hand, such as military aid to fight drug traffickers, the other hand takes away in coffee revenue.

Colombia blames the United States for the collapse of a 74-

nation agreement between coffee exporters and importers that had assured Colombians of decent earnings.

A 50 per cent drop in coffee prices — to about 88 cents per pound — is the worst slump since the great depression of the late 1920s. Colombia could lose \$200 million in coffee revenue this year.

If it is as much as 3 per cent, that would be just over \$1 billion a year that Colombia's economy would lose if drug traffickers were driven out of Colombia.

But unlike coffee earnings, the drug money that enters the Colombian economy does not appear to generate jobs and to be vital to Colombia's economy.

Drug Barons' investments in real estate in Colombia the last six years have been as high as \$3.5 billion according to story earlier this year in the Bogota daily El Tiempo.

After three weeks of crackdown, the Colombian armed forces have seized from drug traffickers properties worth over \$200 million. A U.S. narcotics official in Bogota said at a recent briefing, the Colombian crackdown has cut back cocaine shipments substantially, but that he had no idea exactly how much.

"Twenty per cent, 50 per cent? I don't know," he said.

Members of the Medellin cartel, the world's most powerful cocaine organization, have carried out bomb attacks almost every day in that city since their declaration of war against the government and businessmen.

At least 10 people have been killed since the crackdown started following the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan Aug. 18.

The number of injured in terrorist attacks exceeds 150, including at least 84 injured when a powerful bomb went off near the Bogota newspaper El Espectador Sept. 2.

The Colombian armed forces at estimated 40,000 troops involved in the crackdown on drugs. The figure represents 20 per cent of their total manpower of 200,000 soldiers.

Virulent visitor spreading fast

By Christopher Mwalabandu

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — A tree species introduced into the renowned Usambara mountain region of north-east Tanzania is rapidly invading natural and logged forests. Scientists say the tree is a threat to the survival of indigenous species and is degrading the catchment of East Usambara on which 500,000 people in the Tanga region depend for their water supply.

The Usambara mountain forests are biologically unique, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Dr. Robert Bentstof of IUCN has said: "The forested parts of these mountains are like a remote chain of islands, isolated from each other and cut off for millions of years from comparable forests in Central and West Africa."

In this isolation, says Wilson Kigurula, "evolution has produced an array of distinct species, found there and nowhere else."

The fast-growing tree, Maesopsis eminii known locally as "musizi," is native to Central and West Africa. It was introduced into Tanzania from Uganda where it is popular for timber production.

It was extensively grown for timber in East Usambara in the 1960s and 70s. Now, without even being planted, musizi dominates secondary vegetation.

A researcher in the area, Pierre Binggeli says: "The invasion of a new tree species into tropical forest is most unusual. It has not been reported from other parts of the world."

Wherever musizi grows there is little regeneration of primary trees, surrounding organic matter decreases and there is increased exposure of soil to erosion by water runoff.

It is successful in colonising its new environment because of prolific seed production and widespread dispersal by a local bird, the hornbill, which relishes the fleshy seeds. It also grows at great speed.

At a workshop on the question held at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Binggeli recommended elimination of the tree in nature reserves and said musizi plantations should be replaced by other hardwoods.

Not everyone agrees musizi should be eliminated. A local forestry officer, Mwasha, points to its economic importance in the Tanga region.

"We have introduced the tree to sawmills and it is becoming popular," he says. "People are beginning to accept musizi for furniture. Such uses would help reduce pressure on natural species currently cut for timber."

The says groups of villagers are ready to make use of musizi in communal pit-sawing projects. Pit-sawing — sawing lengths of tree over a pit dug in the ground

— is a cheap technique using little technology which enables peasant artisans to cut up wood on the spot. It also reduces intrusion into the forest of heavy equipment.

It is possible to accommodate the arguments for and against musizi. Although it is true that the new species has invaded spaces created by tree-felling in virgin forests, it is also true that musizi has great potential for supplying the local population with timber, firewood and building poles, among many other uses.

According to the inventory management plan of the area, the quantity of musizi available is enormous and could be harvested by village co-operatives while seedlings randomly dispersed by hornbills could be uprooted to control the invasion feared by scientists.

IUCN has a mission in the region to assist research and arrive at a policy which will preserve the natural forest, while allowing villagers to benefit from the sustainable development of this resource. The idea is that good management can control musizi by exploiting it for productive purposes. However, elimination and replacement by less troublesome but equally fast-growing species, is not excluded.

The people of Tanga need water. Supply depends on the catchment quality of the Usambaras. But they also need wood and timber products to meet their needs and raise living standards.

A balance between conservation efforts and sound management of the introduced species could be a good start for sustainable development in the region — PANOS.

Environment in the Indian elections

By Aisha Ram

DESPITE the Bhopal catastrophe, the environment is barely an issue in the run-up to India's general election to be held before the end of the year. To fill the gap, a Green Front of non-political groups has formed to inject ecology and environment to the forefront of the campaign.

Through environment and conservation, the Colombian armed forces have seized from drug traffickers properties worth over \$200 million. A U.S. narcotics official in Bogota said at a recent briefing, the Colombian crackdown has cut back cocaine shipments substantially, but that he had no idea exactly how much.

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Only the Congress (I) Party sees environment as a political issue in India. Though the Bhopal gas leak in 1984 claimed over 3,000 lives, political parties claiming to be progressive still champion unbridled industrial growth.

Mohan Guruswamy of the Janata Dal, India's main opposition party, says ("Except for those immediately affected and the intellectual community that claims to be caring, Bhopal is already a forgotten chapter."

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No implementation

Or missed government targets for afforestation, river clean-ups and pollution control, Dixit says Delhi sets the targets and policies but state governments often fail to implement them.

Asked how an environmentally benign government sanctioned the controversial Narmada Dam

project which will displace 250,000 people, Dixit argues that local ecological and environmental means bad economy.

To counter this apathy, 80 environmentalists, social activists and journalists have got together to draw up a "green document" which could serve as platform for politicising environmental issues.

They met at Anandwan, Maharashtra, at the ashram of Baba Amte, a respected social worker and Magsaysay Prize award-winner.

Baba Amte wants the "Green Front" to act as a massive pressure group and force political parties to take notice of the millions who suffer from the misdegradation of the environment and the destruction wreaked by so-called development projects.

The Green Front says the 200 million people affected by development projects' environmental and social disasters could determine the fate of parties vying for power.

Sheila Dixit, a minister associated with policy planning in the Congress (I) Party, maintains it is the only one to espouse major environmental issues. Environmental programmes will retain priority if it is returned to power, she says.

Janata Dal (JD), headed by V.P. Singh, feels environmentalists are elitists who neglect people's needs. JD's Mohan Guruswamy says buffalo sanctuaries or clearing out nomadic cowherds from Rajaji National Park to save nature and tigers are seen as anti-peoples.

Janata Dal has noted that Congress (I) obtained no political advantage from its project — PANOS.

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Gulf Arab states urge trade accord with EC

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states are urging the European Community, their main trading partner, to sign a trade accord allowing their infant industries access to Europe.

Officials in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) say they want EC businesses to take part in joint ventures producing goods that could be completed and sold in Europe.

A trade agreement to follow up a preliminary pact signed last year was urgently needed to narrow a \$4.4 billion trade deficit in favour of the EC in 1988, they said.

"We want the EC to do two things," said Yousef Shirawi, Bahrain's minister of development and industry.

"We want them to allow our products to enter without customs duties... which they will refuse... and we want to embark on joint ventures with them so we can manufacture new products which can freely enter Western Europe," he told Reuters.

Abdullah Al Qweiz, GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, said joint venture projects between the two

groups could include pharmaceutical and chemical industries, agriculture, downstream metals and industrial maintenance.

"We believe the EC has a more crucial role to play in the industrialisation of the GCC... it is imperative to correct this serious trade imbalance," he said.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said when invisible export items were taken into account, the EC's current account surplus with the GCC probably exceeded \$10 billion in 1988.

Qweiz said the EC Commission understood the GCC position and was formulating its own. A trade and cooperation accord signed between the two groups in June 1988 was intended as an umbrella for a detailed pact, he said.

EC officials say the Community has an agreement with three Maghreb states — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia — which

allows goods with a minimum local content to enter Europe duty-free.

Qweiz said there was a good chance Gulf states would begin putting protective tariffs on some imports if their own products were not allowed to compete. More than 43 per cent of GCC imports come from Europe.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Most EC imports enter the area virtually duty-free. Cheaply-produced Gulf petrochemicals are effectively blocked from Europe by quotas and 12-to-14 per cent tariffs.

Gulf economists say the GCC is one of the largest markets for EC products, taking 16 per cent of the Community's exports in 1987. But in the same year Gulf exports dropped to five per cent of total EC imports from around 15 per cent in 1981.

Shirawi — who will head Bahrain's delegation to a dialogue with European businessmen in Spain next February — said Gulf states offered cheap



Abdullah Al Qweiz

energy and manpower to partially manufacture products that could be completed in Europe.

"We want to diversify our economies and they want to protect theirs. The best thing is not to retaliate but to join them and manufacture with as much added value here as possible," he said.

Ibrahim Ibn Salamah, managing director of Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp told Reuters petrochemical firms in the Gulf were meeting counterparts in Europe to try to set up partnerships.

"We see our role as producers of raw materials, but we want to expand into intermediate and downstream industries, not necessarily in the Gulf," he told Reuters by telephone.

Sudan hikes bread price

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government has increased the price of bread by 20 per cent, Information Minister Ali Mohamad Shummo announced Tuesday.

Shummo told reporters that the new prices would go into effect as of Wednesday.

The price of a loaf of brown bread, weighing 140 grammes has been raised from 20 Sudanese piasters to 25 piasters (0.80 cents to one cent).

An average Sudanese worker earns \$20 a month.

He said the increase is part of a government's plan to ease the burden on the country's ailing economy.

The government's plan, Shummo said, include measures to decrease public expenditures, increase exportation and imposing price hikes of other government subsidised commodities.

"Citizens should play their part in reforming the national economy," Shummo said.

He said the government would "reconsider" the prices of sugar as from next November following the beginning of local sugar production season.

Edible oil and soap prices will also be reexamined, Shummo said without elaboration.

He said the increases will be coupled with making these commodities available.

Commodity shortages are common in Sudan, saddled with a \$13 billion foreign debt and a six-year-old southern civil war costing the Khartoum government an estimated \$1 million daily.

Thatcher bluntly tells Japan to open markets

TOKYO (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher bluntly told Japan Wednesday to open its markets or risk international retaliation.

In the keynote speech of a four-day visit to Tokyo, she told a meeting of economic organisations, "we are looking for a change in attitudes and ways of trading. A barrier is a barrier whether you call it a cultural difference or tradition or anything else."

Thatcher said Japan's position as an economic superpower had been made possible by free world markets.

But Japanese restrictions, barriers and subsidies "make it hard, even impossible, for some imports to enter Japanese markets," she said.

"Not surprisingly this causes resentment, resentment that can threaten the open world trading system by encouraging those who call for protectionism and by adding to the pressures on those of us who believe in free trade," Thatcher said.

She added: "Imports are an investment in keeping world trade open for Japan, as well as a contribution to quality of Japan's imports."

Describing her remarks as frank, Thatcher gave the government as six-point shopping list of what the world expected from Japan.

These were the encouragement of consumerism, the scrapping of a managed retail distribution system, reduction of subsidies paid to farmers, changed attitudes to imports, greater flexibility of air services and liberalisation of financial markets.

"More open and unrestricted competition in Japan would enable your consumers to enjoy high quality services at lower prices," she said, adding: "Encouraging more consumerism in Japan could help change deeply rooted prejudices about imports."

"It sometimes seems to the rest of us that the benefits of the open trading system have been too much one way," she noted.

Thatcher praised steps Japan had taken in tax reform, budget consolidation and moves to boost domestic demand. But she said Japan should act to stop external complaints, "by carrying through structural reform more vigorously and removing all barriers to imports."

Thatcher said Anglo-Japanese ties had expanded broadly in recent years.

But she added: "The contrast between the openness of the United Kingdom economy and the restrictions that remained in Japan will continue to affect our relations until the problems I have mentioned have been dealt with."

"A solution must be, and indeed will be found... the future prosperity of the free world

depends on it," she emphasized. The British leader urged Japanese businessmen to come to invest in Hong Kong as in the best interest of Japan, Britain and China, which will take over the colony in 1997.

Thatcher earlier sampled Japan's technological revolution by taking a ride on a high-speed "bullet" train and touring an ultra-modern computer factory.

"I've tackled Mr. Nakasone about it, I've tackled Mr. Takeshi about it, I've tackled Mr. Uno about it and now I shall tackle Mr. Kaifu about it," Thatcher said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. before her departure from London's Heathrow airport Monday.

She was referring to former prime ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, Noboru Takeshi and Souki Uno.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government Tuesday adopted a five-year plan to promote foreigners' understanding of modern Japan, officials said.

The plan calls for training more Japanese-language teachers, helping promote modern Japanese arts and inviting research on Japanese culture, the prime minister's office said.

The plan is to start this year, but its precise schedule and budget have yet to be decided, said an official at the prime minister's office, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Encouraging international cultural exchange is no less important than political and economic contributions, Kyodo News Service quoted Kaifu as telling his cabinet, which approved the plan.

The government-backed Japan



Margaret Thatcher

Foundation established a 1.1 billion yen (\$7.53 million) Japanese language international centre in Tokyo this year to help meet increasing demand overseas to learn Japanese, the officials said.

He said the centre will be a headquarters for Japanese-language education overseas as it increases the number of qualified teachers over the next few years.

The government also plans to introduce modern Japanese arts overseas using international broadcasts and promotional videos and brochures to be made available through Japanese embassies and consulates, the official said.

"We've done enough advertisements on traditional ones like Kabuki and Noh plays," he said.

Also planned are invitations to foreign journalists for short visits to Japan to become acquainted with Japanese culture, the official said, adding that the foreign ministry is particularly interested in inviting journalists from countries with relatively infrequent contacts with Japan.

He said the government is considering building a modern Japanese resource centre in the United States to give American researchers greater access to up-to-date information on Japan.

Wheat importers face continuing high prices

LUXOR, Egypt (R) — Wheat importers, including some of the world's poorest countries, are likely to continue paying relatively high prices this year for the staple element in their food supplies, U.S. experts say.

But importers will probably not face the sharp price rises seen early this year which sent shock waves through countries like Egypt, the experts told a conference on U.S. wheat exports to the Middle East and Africa.

"Even though world wheat stocks are quite low, it looks as if the price might be fairly steady in the period ahead," Donald Novotny, director of the grain and feed division at the U.S. Agriculture Department, told the conference.

The last time world stocks were this low was in the early 1970s and prices were going crazy," said Winston Wilson, president of the U.S. producers group, U.S. Wheat Associates.

"Probably by this time next

year we will see some lower prices around the world," U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President Vincent Peterson said.

But for poorer countries dependent on U.S. food aid and export credit programmes there is little hope of an increase in U.S. funds to pay for higher

For countries like Egypt, which buy huge quantities of wheat to keep its population supplied with bread, the price rise meant a tough squeeze on an already stretched budget.

Prices have now eased off to about \$150 a tonne and although world stocks of wheat are very low, lack of supply is unlikely to push up prices again.

High prices are expected to encourage farmers to grow more wheat, meaning bigger supplies and possibly a fall-off in prices a year from now.

"Probably by this time next

year we will see some lower prices around the world," U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President Vincent Peterson said.

But for poorer countries dependent on U.S. food aid and export credit programmes there is little hope of an increase in U.S. funds to pay for higher

For countries like Egypt, which buy huge quantities of wheat to keep its population supplied with bread, the price rise meant a tough squeeze on an already stretched budget.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Wednesday, September 20, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	French franc	92.2 93.1
U.S. dollar	610.3 616.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	416.8 421.0
Pound Sterling	935.9 965.0	Dutch guilder	276.2 279.0
Deutschmark	311.5 314.6	Swiss francs	92.1
Swiss franc	359.8 363.4	Italian lira	43.3 43.7
		Belgian franc (for 100)	149.0 150.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

		Wednesday, September 20, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	U.S. dollars	1.7375/45
One U.S. dollar	1.1830/40	Canadian dollar	1.9485/92
2.1993/2000	1.6900/10	Deutschmarks	2.1993/2000
40.79/82	6.5975/6025	Dutch guilders	1.6900/10
1405/1406	145.88/98	Swiss francs	40.79/82
7.1075/125	7.5800/50	Belgian francs	6.5975/6025
One ounce of gold	360.80/361.20	French francs	1405/1406
		Italian lire	145.88/98
		Japanese yen	7.1075/125
		Swedish crowns	7.5800/50
		Norwegian crowns	One ounce of gold
		Danish crowns	360.80/361.20
		U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market cold-shouldered Bond Corp's plan to sell half its stake in brewing assets, marking down Bond's shares. The All-Ordinaries Index fell 12.0 points to 1,734.0.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed in light trading. The Nikkei Index was off a scant 0.49 points to close at 34,470.58.

HONG KONG — Prices rose slightly. The Hang Seng index gained 4.48 to 2,632.78.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed lower for the third day as profit-taking pushed prices down on a broad front. The Strait Times Industrial Index fell 4.30 points to 1,394.97.

BOMBAY — Profit-taking trimmed an early rally for the second successive day after buyers and state-owned investment institutions pushed the market up.

FRANKFURT — Investors moved out of blue chips and into specialty stocks or were sidelined by interest rate concerns. The 30-share Dax Index fell 1.27 points to 1,612.87.

PARIS — Phone-Poulen's investment certificates fell 32 franc to 544 as analysts questioned how it would finance two foreign acquisitions. The 50-share price indicator ended the day unchanged.

LONDON — A 12-point



Indian soldiers waiting to go home

India halts operations in war-torn Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Indian peacekeeping soldiers on Wednesday halted military operations in their two-year-old battle against Tamil rebels, as another 53 people died in ethnic violence.

The government said the victims of the latest spasm of violence included seven family members shot and hacked to death by suspected extremists from the island's ethnic Sinhalese majority.

India's suspension of military operations at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) Wednesday was part of an agreement it signed earlier this week with Sri Lanka, calling for all 42,000 Indian soldiers to withdraw by Dec. 31.

Tamil rebel groups, including the largest and most militant, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, have said they will honor the cease-fire.

But Lieutenant-General A.S. Kalkat, the commander of the Indian troops, said his forces will take any action needed to maintain law and order in the northern and eastern parts of the island, where they were deployed in July 1987 to supervise an arms surrender by Tamil guerrillas.

By mid-afternoon Wednesday, Sri Lanka's army officials and residents in the Tamil-dominated northeast province said Indian soldiers were patrolling the towns, but there were no reports of confrontations.

Indian troops have on at least three previous occasions temporarily suspended military operations against the Tamil rebels. For the first time, the cease-fire that began Wednesday will be monitored by an observer group headed by Kalkat and the Sri Lankan army commander, Hamilton Wanasinghe.

India dispatched its peacekeeping soldiers to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to supervise a peace accord that offered the Tamil rebels limited autonomy if they would lay down their weapons and end their fight for an independent homeland in the northeast.

But the Tamil Tigers rejected the accord, saying it did not meet their expectations, and turned their guns on the Indian soldiers. The presence of the Indian soldiers and the government's peace offer to the Tamils also triggered a campaign of political killings by Sinhalese extremists. They contend that the Sinhalese-dominated government had offered too many concessions to the minority Tamils and had compromised the nation's sovereignty by inviting Indian soldiers to Sri Lanka.

Other victims included a reporter for the government-owned Lake House newspaper group, five suspected Sinhalese militants killed by security forces and five Sinhalese civilians killed by extremists, the officials said.

Aid to East bloc

Baker said any increases in U.S. assistance to Poland and Hungary, which are veering away from Marxist economies, depended on the changes undertaken in the two East European countries. "We shouldn't be misguided" and think U.S. aid could overcome their problems, he said.

And Baker said, it was the Soviets' "turn to move" on reducing troops and non-nuclear armaments in Europe.

On negotiating arms control with Moscow, Baker said, "we have to be careful not to become frantic..."

However, Baker said he would propose to Shevardnadze ways to break a 15-year impasse on verifying the size of U.S. and Soviet underground nuclear tests.

In addition, he said, "we have,

I think, a reasonable shot at an agreement to exchange data on chemical stocks, which I think is a first practical step toward achieving real controls and eventually a total ban."

On another arms control front, Baker said the administration no longer would seek a ban on U.S. and Soviet long-range mobile missiles. He urged Congress to provide funds for development of the single-warhead Midgetman.

The latest attempt to have been brought swiftly under control and the streets of Ouagadougou were calm Tuesday.

The official Burkina Faso news agency quoted government spokesman Clement Ouedraogo as saying Gilbert Deindere, in charge of presidential security, had discovered the latest plot just before Compaore returned.

Specialists believe Gorbachev has equipped Shevardnadze with new ideas for cuts in strategic arms. Bush, meanwhile, is under pressure to respond more warmly to the dramatic changes underway in the Soviet Bloc.

"It would be customary" for Shevardnadze to hand Bush a letter from the Soviet leader, and "Gorbachev being Gorbachev, it would not be too surprising for it to contain some dramatic proposals," said one U.S. official, speaking on condition he not be further identified.

The commander said he stepped up recruitment and was forming new units to replace the Vietnamese, who have been returning home since 1987 and now were posted only around the provincial town.

He said the guerrillas are trying to break through the defence line

including his brother, were killed.

A huge explosion rocked the province about the same time.

But Kan Seng said it was caused not by the guerrillas, but by an accidental combustion of petrol and a B-40 rocket round that his troops were transporting.

One soldier died and 300 tonnes of arms went up in flames, he told two visiting foreign journalists.

Kompong Speu is just west of Phnom Penh and is a vital buffer between the capital and the Western provinces bordering Thailand that are most plagued by guerrilla activity.

The Kompong Speu military chief said there were only 400 Khmer Rouge in the province, hiding in the forests and surviving by banditry. He claimed most clashes lasted no more than 15 minutes, although wounded fighters at the hospital described battles that sounded bigger.

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which always is reserved in first place in our concerns, but the environment, AIDS, and terrorism," said Perez de Cuellar.

Garba, the 46-year-old Nigerian U.N. ambassador, was unanimously acclaimed as the new assembly's president. He is a former foreign minister of Nigeria, and since 1984 has actively campaigned against apartheid, South Africa's system of racial segregation.

In a news conference just before the assembly opened, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar observed: "The General Assembly has an agenda which is a kind of a marvelous menu, in which everything is contained..."

"I think that in the present General Assembly there are subjects of great importance politically. There is Namibia, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Western Sahara, Central America, and Cyprus," said the U.N. chief.

"On the social aspect, I think it is extremely important that this year the General Assembly gives importance to real social questions. Not only human rights,

but of Argentina, have both said that in the past year or so it has become evident that the cold war between the superpowers has ended, opening the door to international cooperation.

Over the last two years, the Soviet Union and the United States have cooperated in U.N. plans for the Red Army withdrawal from Afghanistan, and to encourage South Africa to grant independence to Namibia in conjunction with the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola.

Garba warned to that theme, and challenged the United States and Soviet Union to build on their achievements, calling on them to complete their treaty negotiations to cut their strategic nuclear stockpiles by 50 per cent.

He also called for an immediate moratorium on nuclear testing by all nations, and urged the nations of the world to ban the use, the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

Baker expects chemical weapons accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that he hopes to conclude a chemical weapons agreement with the Soviet Union this weekend and make headway on other arms control fronts.

Baker, in his first Washington news conference in eight months in his job, sought to reverse growing criticism in Congress and elsewhere of the cautious approach U.S. President George Bush is taking in response to foreign policy initiatives from Moscow.

He accused the Senate's Democratic leader of playing politics with the issue.

Last week, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who will meet with Baker in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Friday and Saturday, accused the administration of "timidity" on arms control issues.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell said Monday that the administration had failed to encourage change in the Eastern bloc and was "feeling almost nostalgic about the cold war."

Baker fired back Tuesday night, suspected Sinhalese radicals shot and hacked to death five children between the ages of three and 12 and their parents in Ratnapura district, 70 kilometres southeast of Colombo, a government communiqué said. The attackers then set fire to the house, it said.

Military officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules blamed Sinhalese radicals for the attack because the father was a police informant.

Baker lowered expectations that he would set a date with Shevardnadze for a summit meeting between Bush and Gorbachev. He said only that the subject would be thoroughly discussed at Jackson Hole.

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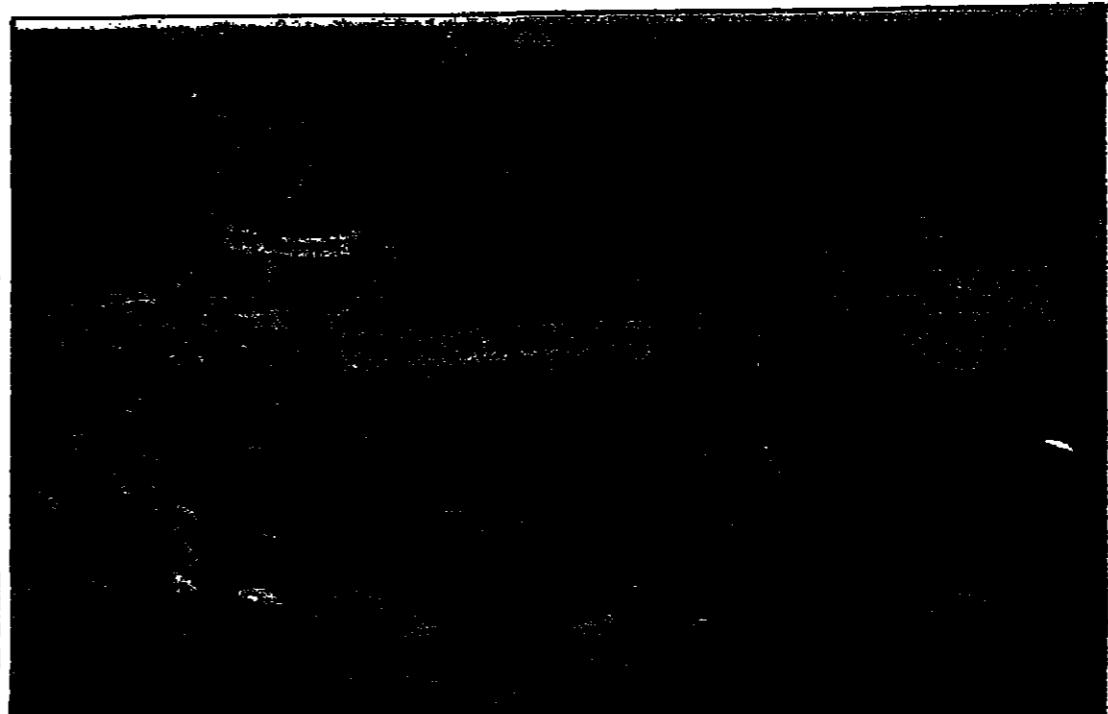
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Nationalist protests in the Baltic republics are Gorbachev's biggest anxiety

Gorbachev offers Soviet republics more power

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is offering Soviet republics more power to decide issues at home, but he says the Kremlin will not tolerate anarchy or what he calls separatist demagogues.

Gorbachev spoke Tuesday at a Communist Party Central Committee meeting on ethnic problems that have resulted in more than 200 deaths since last spring, the virtual blockade of one republic, and calls for outright independence from Moscow.

And yet, in several of his replies to questions, Baker stressed the cautious stance taken by the administration towards Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The policy-setting committee is considering a document that is a blueprint for ethnic relations under Gorbachev's policy of restructuring Soviet society.

The Soviet leader urged Soviets "not to give in to demagogues" with slogans "served under the pleasant shade of independence, secession, etc."

In its first decision Tuesday, the Central Committee backed Gorbachev's proposal to hold the next party congress ahead of schedule, in October 1990. Congresses are held every five years and the last one opened Feb. 24, 1986.

Gorbachev Tuesday echoed a Central Committee warning to the three Baltic republics in August, saying calls for independence, secession, etc., etc.

Addressing the increasing demands in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to recognize that they were forcibly absorbed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin as World War II broke out, Gorbachev said Stalin's policy were wrong.

Gorbachev said many Communist Party members cannot keep up with the rapid pace of change in Soviet society engendered by his reform programme.

Renewal is necessary all the way up to the Central Committee level, he said.

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